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# Chronology and History of Nepal

[ From 600 B.C. to 880 A.D. ]

*By*  
K. P. JAYASWAL

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TO

RĀHULA SĀNKRITYĀYANA

परमार्थशास्त्रकृत्या कुर्वाणः शास्त्रकृत्यमिव लोके ।  
यो धर्मवता मग्न्यो द्वितीय इव धर्मकीर्तिरिति ॥

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## PREFACE

Up to this time we had no modern work which dealt with the chronology and history of Nepal from the earliest time to 880 A. D. For the period from 880 A. D. (the foundation of the Nepal Era) to the eighteenth century (when the present dynasty succeeded) the chronology and history have been worked out by Dr. C. Bendall and embodied in the introduction to his *Nepal Catalogue of Manuscripts*, published by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Prof. S. Lévi in Vol. II of his *Le Nepal* has given the abstracts of the Nepal Chronicles which had been brought to notice by the researches of Kirkpatrick, Wright, Bhagwanlal Indraji and Bendall, with the addition of one more edition of the Chronicles (*Vāniśāvalī*) discovered by him. But Dr. Lévi did not attempt to construct any connected chronology. Further his energy was mostly spent on controverting the dates arrived at for Nepal inscriptions by Bhagwanlal, Bendall and Fleet. Unfortunately Dr. Lévi was not very strong on Indian epigraphy, and he considered Nepal inscriptions to be in eras centuries earlier than those proposed by Dr. Fleet and Dr. Bendall. The inscriptions which had been interpreted by the latter as dated in the Gupta Era (an era starting in 319 A. D.) were placed by Dr. Lévi in the Saka Era (starting in 78 A. D.). In this great confusion it became necessary to review

the whole data and the conclusions thereon by these previous scholars. The reader will find the process and the results in the following pages. Dr. Cecil Bendall has been found to be the most reliable authority on matters epigraphical. His great and long labour on Nepal manuscripts had made him thoroughly familiar with Nepal writings and their times. It was he who first recognised that the years in larger figures in Nepal inscriptions were in the Gupta Era. The result of my enquiry is that Prof. Bendall and Dr. Fleet were right in this respect and Prof. Lévi was mistaken. My conclusion about the other contemporary era of the Nepal inscriptions is that it is not the era of Harsha (beginning in 606 A. D.) as held by Bhagwanlal, Fleet, and Bendall, nor a Tibetan era originating about 593 to 595 A. D. as proposed by Lévi; but a *Thākuri* Era with its starting point in 595 A. D. instituted by Amśuvarman.

The great contribution to the chronology of Nepal by Prof. Lévi is the datum on King Narendra-deva, grandson of Amśuvarman, from Chinese history, which enables us to correct some important errors in the views of Bhagwanlal and Fleet.

Nepal coins, the *Mañjuśrī-Mūlakalpa* history, and an astronomical manuscript have been utilized in the present study as additional data. On history—Indian, Nepalese, Tibetan, and Chinese materials have been combined. After the present volume had been printed off fresh evidence has come to light establishing the dominion of the Kushans in Champaran. A hoard of sixty pieces of copper coins of early Kushans was dug out at Radhiā, the village

which is marked by a pillar of Aśoka. It becomes therefore very probable that the early Kushans ruled also in Nepal, as suggested in this volume. Attention has been drawn to the stone monuments which are in line with Early Gupta Art and which the writer has personally seen and examined.

The Nepal chronicles have misplaced the Kirāta Dynasty—Nepal's first dynasty—and the Gupta Dynasty. But for this misplacement and transposition of certain names in the Lichchhavi Dynasty, the Chronicles are correct. Their dates, however, are hopelessly corrupt, owing, amongst other causes, to the Nepalese writers having mistaken in the inscriptions of Amśuvarman (seventh century A. D.) the Samvat (of Amśuvarman) for the Samvat Era of 58 B.C.

The period surveyed in this volume—about 600 B. C. to 880 A. D.—covers the period that may conveniently be described as the period of Ancient Nepal.

Buddhism was introduced by the Emperor Aśoka into Nepal amongst a population nearly wholly non-Aryan—the Kirātas. Saivism, the orthodox caste system, and Aryan population in appreciable numbers and as a dominant factor were introduced by the Lichchhavi dynasty for the first time, from the Muzafferpur district, in the third century of the Christian Era, and the process continued on. Nepal is thus intimately connected with Bihar. But Nepal is so secluded and cut off from Bihar along with the rest of Northern India that the Indian knows more of distant lands than of Nepal which is his ancient colony and which has been a part of his Indian empire for centuries and where one of his most sacred shrines

is enthroned. Similarly the history of Nepal which should be a subject of attraction to us has remained almost outside the sphere of Indian enquiry.

It is a hopeful sign that the Government of Nepal has just begun taking interest in their historical remains. They have undertaken excavation at Lumbini—the birth-place of the Buddha. In Nepal many sites invite excavation—e.g. the prominent site of the Kailāsakūṭa Palace. Searches are to be made for early inscriptions. Aśoka must have left some records in the valley, as he has left more than four stūpas. The site of the famous Mānagrīha is yet to be discovered. Nepal, on the surface, is full of inscriptions, where they number by thousands. As yet no search has been made outside the three capitals or a systematic search even in those capitals. It is hoped that interest in the matter will increase in Nepal and a proper department organized. Documents on stone, metal, palm-leaf and paper of great value to the history of Nepal and of Bhāratavarsha are, we believe, sure to come to light if the matter receives official attention. The last earthquake which destroyed thousands of ancient books should serve as a warning against indifference.

It is hoped that this volume may serve to stimulate interest in Nepal itself in recovering and systematising its history.

I am thankful to His Highness the Maharaja-Marshal of Nepal for allowing me to visit the valley and to have a firsthand knowledge of many materials and matters discussed in this volume.

K. P. J.

CHRONOLOGY AND HISTORY OF NEPAL  
600 B.C. TO 880 A.D.

*By K. P. JAYASWAL*







# A

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[350 A.D. to 880 A.D.]

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# CHRONOLOGY AND HISTORY OF NEPAL

[600 B.C.—880 A.D.]

## A

### LICHCHHAVIS AND THAKURIS

350 A.D. to 880 A.D.

#### I.—THE DATE AND ERA OF AMSUVARMAN

In the Nepal chronology the date of Amśuvaramaṇa is a pivot, like the date of Chandragupta Maurya, to move up and to move down for several centuries. Amśuvaramaṇa's date is therefore an important matter.

His date as 635-650 A. D. was postulated by Dr. Bhagwanlal Indraji on the basis of the Harsha Era, that is, taking the dates in his inscriptions to be in the Harsha Era; and his view was accepted by Dr. Fleet and has been followed

subsequently by Indian writers. That view needs reconsideration.

On the date of this king we have the following materials. From Tibetan sources we know that the Tibetan emperor Strong-s tan-G am po whose rule is dated at 629 A. D.<sup>1</sup> (V. Smith, *EH.*, 373, 376 n.), married Amśuvarman's daughter between 628 and 641.<sup>2</sup> From the account of Yuan Chwang, who began his travels in India in 629 and reached China in 645 (V. Smith, 373, 365), we gather that Amśuvarman, a reputed author, had passed away before the Chinese pilgrim left India, that he was '*a recent king*',<sup>3</sup> that is, he had died not long ago. His time is thus fixed as a little before 644 or 645, from the Tibetan and Chinese sources.

Now according to Nepal inscriptions, he was alive in certain years of an unnamed era, in years 34, 39, and 44 noted in the records of his reign (Dr. Fleet, *Gupta Inscriptions*, Introduction, pp. 178-180), and he

<sup>1</sup> According to Chinese History he died in 650 A. D. (*JRAS*, 1880, 438), and according to Tibetan, in 698 A. D.

<sup>2</sup> According to Waddell and Sarat Chandra Das in 641, and according to de Milloué, between 628 and 631 (V. Smith, p. 376 n.). The name of the Nepal king, the father of the Princess, is *go-cba* in Tibetan which has been translated as *Prabhā-varman* (*JASB*, LIX. 54), and *Jyoti-varman* (Sarat Ch. Das, *JASB*, L. 200). The reference does not necessarily prove that the marriage took place in the lifetime of Amśuvarman.

<sup>3</sup> Beal and Watters, ii, 84, leave no room for doubt on the Chinese text. Bhagwanlal Indraji tried to doubt the translation (*IA.*, XIII. 419), and Fleet totally ignored the evidence of Yuan Chwang. The opinion of the Sinologues is unanimous on the passage that Amśuvarman is recorded as a past king by Yuan Chwang (*IA.*, 1894, 58).

must have died in or before the year 48 (Fleet, p. 180) in which year the record of his successor J i s h n u-G u p t a is dated and wherein A m ś u v a r m a n is mentioned as a past sovereign. In any case, A m ś u v a r m a n's rule, therefore, could not have lasted after the 48th year of this era; and as he died before 645 (Yuan Chwang) the era could not begin after (645-48) 597 A. D. There is, however, yet another reference to A m ś u v a r m a n in the Nepal inscriptions. It is an inscription of S i v a d e v a I, the Lichchhavi king, whose feudatory A m ś u v a r m a n had been and who mentions him in an inscription dated in the year 316 of an unnamed era (Fleet, 177-78). This era was taken by Fleet to be the Gupta Era, and it is not possible to take it otherwise owing to the known date of A m ś u v a r m a n from the external sources discussed above. This era beginning as it did 316 years before the time of A m ś u v a r m a n (c. 640) must begin in the first quarter of the 4th century and the only known era which falls to commence about that time is the Gupta Era beginning in 319-320 A. D. The inscription of S a m u d r a G u p t a proves the subordination of Nepal to him. There seems to be no room for any doubt that Nepal adopted the Imperial Gupta Era. In the year 316 (635 A. D., 3rd May) A m ś u v a r m a n according to the inscription is feudatory and adviser (though dominant adviser) of S i v a d e v a I. The form "M a h a s a m a n t a - A m ś u v a r m a n a v i j n a p i t e n a m a y a"—proves conclusively the subordinate position of A m ś u v a r m a n. In his own inscriptions up to the

year 34, Amśuvarmān calls himself *Mahāsāmanta*, 'High Feudatory'; and in the year 39 he drops that title and adopts 'Sri', 'His Majesty.' Amśuvarmān to start as king would therefore be dated in or about 635 A. D., not much before, and his reign [as king] will fall between 635 and 645 A. D. (*Yuan Chwang*)—a period roughly of 10 years at the highest. It follows, then, that his own inscription of the year 39 would be about 635 A. D., that the years 35 to 44 or 45 while Amśuvarmān was alive would cover his whole reign of 10 years. His reign [as king] is thus to be dated between about 635 A. D. and 645 A. D. And the era of these lower figure years must begin in or before 600 A. D. and not after. It, therefore, cannot be the Harsha Era which began in 606-607 A. D.

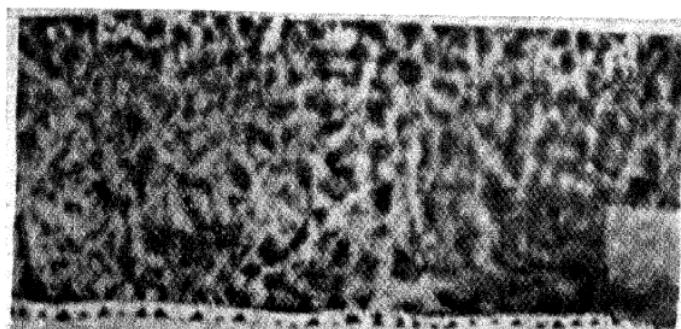
### *The Initial Year of the Era of Amśuvarmān*

There is a definite piece of information in Chinese History of the T'ang Dynasty (chapter 221)<sup>1</sup> giving details of Nepal History from contemporary writings which proves that Amśuvarmān was dead before the year 643 A. D. In the period 642-647 A. D. when the Imperial Envoy from China—Li Y-piao—was on his way to the court of Harshavardhana, he found on the throne of Nepal 'the king Narendra deva [Na-ling-ti-po].' The father of this king whose name we know from inscriptions to be Udayadeva, eldest son (*Yuvarāja*) of Amśuvarmān,<sup>2</sup> had been deposed by Narendra

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, *J.A.*, 1894, 60, 67; *J.A.*, 1900, 304.

<sup>2</sup> *J.A.*, IX. 170, insc. of the year 39.

Beginning of line 30 of Thankot Inscription of  
Mānadeva and Jishṇu Gupta.





dradeva's uncle, younger brother of his father. Narendra dradeva was restored to throne by the Tibetan king on the condition that the former became his vassal.<sup>1</sup> Several times two Chinese envoys passed through Nepal between the period 642-647 and 657 A. D. while Narendra dradeva was ruling. It is an ascertained fact from Chinese history that from 643 A. D. to 657 A. D. Narendra dradeva was found on the throne.<sup>2</sup> Amśavarman's death therefore is to be dated before 643 and after 635 A. D. when he was alive in the time of Sivadeva I. The period is further narrowed down by the discovery of a further inscription of Sivadeva I, dated 320 published by Professor Lévi in his vol. III on Nepal (p. 79)<sup>3</sup>. This is similar to his other charters mentioning the *Mahāsāmanta* Amśavarman, who had conquered all the enemies. He was thus alive in (320 G. E.) 639 A. D., and his death must fall between 639 A. D. and 643 A. D.

Now can we get at the exact date between these two uncontested dates 639 and 643 A. D.? If my reading of the date as the year 44 in the Thānkot inscription of Jishnu Gupta (Lévi, iii, plate

<sup>1</sup> The passage has been several times translated by French Sinologues commencing with St. Julien (*JA*, 1847).

<sup>2</sup> See Lévi, *JA*, 1894, 55; 1900, 297; *Le Nepal*, i. 155; ii. 164-165; cf. V. Smith, *EH*, 366, on dates of arrivals of the mission in India.

<sup>3</sup> Discovered by Maharaja Chandra Shamsher Jang at Khopasi (a village to the east of Bhatgaon). Plate XIII of Lévi has the date in perfect and clearest state of preservation, and reads 320, *Chaitra kṛishna-pañchamyām*. Unfortunately Prof. Lévi, under his curious idea of Nepal Eras and of Nepal history which minimised the importance of all Gupta connexions in Nepal, read the figure as 320.

XVII), be correct,<sup>1</sup> we can definitely say that Jishṇu Gupta and his puppets, Mānadeva and Dhruvadeva—uncle of Narendra deva and the Lichchhavi succeeding him—ruled for 4 years (yrs. 48<sup>2</sup> and 44 in Jishṇu Gupta's inscriptions), and that the death of Amśuvarman is to be dated (643-4) c. 639.

Fortunately we have an astronomical datum in an inscription of Amśuvarman discovered and published by Dr. Bendall in his *Journey into Nepal* (IA, XV. 338). This is dated in the year 34, in the intercalary month of Pausha (*prathama-Pausha Śukla-dvitiyā-yām*). According to the present system no intercalation is reckoned in Pausha or Mārgaśīrṣa, but that such intercalation was reckoned in the earlier period is confirmed by another inscription noted by Dr. Fleet (IA, XV. 338). Now following the system of the old Ārya Siddhānta<sup>3</sup> the month of Pausha will intercalate in the period 600-700 A. D. in four years, namely in 629, 648, 667 and 686 A. D.<sup>4</sup> As 648, 667 and 686 fall in the reigns of Narendra deva and later, we have to select only 629 A. D. as the date when the year 34 of Amśuvarman with *prathamu* (1st) Pausha [about November, 23] fell. This will give the initial year of Amśuvarman's era to be 595 A. D.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See plate of the beginning of line 30 (enlarged) from Lévi, iii, 104, pl. XVII. Lévi suggested 500, of which there is no trace.

<sup>2</sup> IA, IX. 171.

<sup>3</sup> See Sewell, *Siddhāntas and the Indian Calendar* (p.x).

<sup>4</sup> See Sewell's Tables.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. JA, 1894, 62 (Lévi, On the Chronology of Nepal), where he has taken 594, which is an error. His other astronomical facts are also inaccurate. According to the Brahmasid-

His 44th year will thus be 639 A. D.<sup>1</sup> We have therefore to take his death year to be that if the Thankot inscription is dated in the year 44 and his last inscription to be dated in the year 44, not 45 [the reading was doubtful between 44 and 45, Bhagwanlal Indraji, *IA*, IX, 171 n. 27; Fleet, *GI*, I, 180, n. 5]. Otherwise it would fall (in any case) after Chaitra-kṛishṇa-pañchamī, March 639 A. D. and before 643 A. D.

*The Chronology of the rule of Amśuvarman and  
Dynastic Revolution on his death*

The chronology of the reigns of Amśuvarman and Jishṇu Gupta would stand thus.

*Amśuvarman*

- 595 Beginning of Amśuvarman's Era.
- 625 Amśuvarman's Hārigaon inscription (Lévi, iii, 85) of year 30, Jyaiṣṭha 6, fixing maintenance of his commander-in-chief, his coronation horse and elephants, and others.

dhānta (which, Lévi erroneously says, would give the same result) the intercalation of Pausha will take place in 602, 621 and 640 A. D. The Brahma-siddhānta could not have reached Nepal in 602 A. D. or 621 A. D., for it was published and came into use after 628 A. D. (Sewell, p. X). 660 A. D. = 34 of Amśuvarman will give us 606 A. D. as the initial year of the era, which we have seen to be impossible. 621 A. D. = 34 of Amśuvarman would make him dead in 635 ( $587 + 48$ th year when Jishṇu Gupta was ruling), while he was alive up to 639, the 320 year record of Śivadeva.

The astronomical calculations given above have been verified by my friend Dr. Gorakh Prasad, the astronomer of the Allahabad University.

<sup>1</sup> Kirkpatrick's *Varnśāvali* gives Amśuvarman a reign of 42 years.

627 His second Harigaon insc., of year 32, Ashādha S. 13, (Lévi, iii. 93), fixing charitable allowances. His Sanga insc. of year 32, Bhādrāpada S. 1, giving a privilege to the village [describing Palace *Kailāsakūta* from which all his charters are issued, as a ‘wonder-inspiring’ building] Lévi, iii. 99.

629 His insc. of year 34 (Jyaishṭha S. 10), IA, IX. 169, on preservation of cocks, pigs, and fishes, etc.

629 His insc. of year 34 (prathama-Pausha S. 2), Bendall, p. 74. Grant of fields for repairs of a building.

634 His insc. of year 39, Vaiśākha S. 10, order issued as king (*śrī*), for administration in respect of religious (Saiva) endowments by his sister and her children [IA., IX. 170.]; U d a y a d e v a as *yuvarāja*.

*Amīśuvarman and Sivadeva I.*

635 Sivadeva I’s insc. of year 316 Jyaistha S. 10 (Bendall, *Journey*, p. 72, IA, XIV. 97) granting privilege to a village on the advice of the *Mahāsāmanta Amīśuvarman*.

639 Sivadeva I’s insc. of year 320, Chaitra, Kṛiṣṇa 5, at Khopasi; privilege to the village on the advice of *Ms. Amīśuvarman* (Lévi, iii. 79).<sup>1</sup>

639 Vibhuvarman’s insc. in the year 44 (or,

<sup>1</sup> There are two more inscriptions of Sivadeva I where *MS. Amīśuvarman’s* advice is cited in the charters, but the dates are gone—IA, IX. 168; Lévi, iii, 62 [Tulachchhitol-Bhatgaon].

45), Jyeshṭha S., when he built a conduit by favour of His Majesty (*sri*) Amśuvarman.

### *Jishṇu Gupta and Mānadeva*

639 (?) Thankot inscription of *Srī Jishṇu Gupta-deva*, under Baṭṭāraka ['Master'] *Srī Mānadeva*, '*banner of the family occupying the Lion-Throne*', of year 44 [?], confirming the grant for a tank made by his own great-grandfather *Mānadevagomin*. *Jishṇu Gupta* had his own *Yuvarāja* *Vishṇu Gupta*, and his dynasty *Soma* [Lévi, iii. 104]

### *Jishṇu Gupta and Dhruvadeva Lichchhavi.*

643 *Jishṇu Gupta* (His Majesty, *Srī*), at Mīna-Nārāyaṇ, in year 48, Kārttika S.2, makes over to a feudatory a water-course which had been dug out by the "*Mahārāja-dhirāja Amśuvarma-pāda*." The order is passed under the over-lord *Dhruvadeva*. *Jishṇu Gupta* claims his sovereignty by hereditary right and popular approval [IA., IX. 171].

There is another inscription like the above where the date is mutilated. That also is under *Dhruvadeva*, the banner of the *Lichchhavi* dynasty [IA., IX. 173]. The last known inscription [IA., IX. 174] under the prosperous and victorious reign of *Srī-Jishṇu-Gupta* (*Srī-Jishṇu-*

Guptasya pravarddhamāna-vijayarājye) has also lost its date.

### Narendradeva

643 Narendradeva [grandson of Amśuvarman, son of Udayadeva] found by the Chinese already restored on the Nepal throne.

It seems that 643 A. D. was the first year of the restoration of Narendradeva, when Jishṇu-Gupta had been ruling along with Dhruvadeva Lichchhavi whose name we do not find in the Vamśāvali [unless it is to be taken as identical with the Rudradeva]. The uncle of Narendradeva, therefore must have been Mānadeva who ruled with Jishṇu Gupta before Dhruvadeva who is placed in the Vamśāvalis after Udayadeva and is not called *Lichchhavi-kula-ketu* like Dhruvadeva but *simhāsanādhyāsi-kula-ketu* in the inscription. It appears that Jishṇu Gupta wanted to legalise his position by setting up a Lichchhavi at Mānagriha in the place of Mānadeva and sought the popular approval as against the claim of Narendradeva.

### The Author of the Era 595 A. D.

What does this era which started in 595 A. D. signify?

The Guptas were expelled by Sivadeva I about this time<sup>1</sup>. But then Sivadeva I himself uses the Imperial Gupta era and not a new era. It seems that Amśuvarman counted the era from his own coronation as *Mahāsāmanta*,

<sup>1</sup> See separate section on the Guptas of Nepal below.

and it is Amśuvarmān's own era. He was the founder of a new (the Thākuri) dynasty—an event sufficiently important, especially as it meant the virtual supersession of the ancient and long dynasty of the great Lichchhavis. He counted his original coronation as the reckoning of his new dynasty. That he did not take a formal second abhisheka, at least up to his 34th year, is evident from his inscription where throughout he is styled by the old title *Mahāsāmanita*, although all the paraphernalia and functions mentioned in the inscriptions are fully royal. Probably he was re-anointed in the very last year of his reign as the full title of sovereignty—*Mahārājādhiraja*—does appear on one series of his coins.<sup>1</sup> This was not a posthumous title given by Jishnu Gupta as supposed by Bhagwan Lal Indraji and Lévi.

A telling argument against the theory of the introduction of the Harsha Era into Nepal is that had it been politically introduced we would have found it also in the inscriptions of Sivadeva I, contemporary of Amśuvarmān. On the other hand, Sivadeva I and his successors never adopted the era which Amśuvarmān and his successors used, that is, the era of lower figures—years 30 to 153. It was thus evidently the Thākuri Era, the era of Amśuvarmān, counted from his coronation as *Mahāsāmanita*.

<sup>1</sup> Cunningham, C. A. I. 117. Lévi, Bhagwanlal Indraji and Fleet have missed this piece of evidence.

*A Tibetan Era in Nepal?*

Prof. Lévi expounded a theory that Amśuvarman's years were in a Tibetan Era (*Le Nepal*, ii, 153-54) which, according to the dates 1203 and 1206 in Dalai Lama's letters of 1789 and 1792 A.D., should have begun in 586 A.D. The Chinese register the foundation of the Tibetan empire in the K' a i - H o a n g period which falls between 581 and 601 A.D. Professor Lévi therefore suggests that there was a Tibetan Era which was also the origin of the Bengali Era called "*San*." Both these theories are untenable.

The Bengal Era though apparently counted from 593 A.D. as its initial year, has really nothing to do with any era starting in 593 A.D. It was invented in the reign of Akbar by taking the years of Hindu eras [Samvat and others] for the year of Akbar's accession and deducting therefrom his accession year in Hijra. His accession occurred in the Hijra year 963; in other systems it corresponded to 1556 A.D. (1556-963 = 593 A.D.)<sup>1</sup>. The origin of the Bengal *San* is thus a new calculation invented in Akbar's reign, and not a Tibetan era. The speculation of Prof. Lévi connecting it with a Tibetan era and assuming a supposed Tibetan conquest of Bengal is a product of unhistorical imagination and complete ignorance of the history of the foundation of the *San-i-Bangálá*, the Fasli year of Bihar and the Vilāyatī year of the Deccan, which all have a common origin, as

<sup>1</sup> See Prinsep's *Essays*, ii. 168; Fleet's *Hindu Chronology* in *Ency. Brit.*, xiii.

fully recorded by Muhammadan historians<sup>1</sup>. Prof. Lévi's method illustrates how a pure philologist makes a poor historian. Prof. Lévi, although he does not say so in clear terms, was swayed [ii. 154] by the name-ending of Tibetan kings *tsan* in attributing a Tibetan origin to the *San* of Bengal, which is not a Tibetan but a Persian word. Tibetans never had any era, that is, a continuous reckoning in their own country. They counted time in cycles and by periods (Prinsep, *Essays*, ii. 160 'Tibetan Kalendar'; ii. 289, 'Buddhist Chronology of Tibet'; Waddel, *Lhasa* (1909), 449, *Tibetan Year-Cycles*). They have a fixed epoch falling in 1025 A.D. which is the year of the introduction into Tibet of the Hindu chronological system called *Kālachakra*. Csoma translated the Tibetan chronology composed in A.D. 1686 (Prinsep, ii. 289) which clearly admits that there was no Tibetan era up to 1686 A.D., that the whole idea of an era was absent in the Tibetan system. For the period before 1025 A.D. Tibet has a fixed epoch of 403 years (Prinsep, ii. 162). Prof. Lévi not finding a possible date in 586 A.D. for Amśuvarman's era, proposed that this 403 figure must be a mistake for 430 and deducting from 1025 A.D. reached 595 A.D. and said that that must be the beginning of a Tibetan era which was introduced in Nepal. Now apart from the fact that the whole of the Tibetan chronology negatives the idea of there having been an era in Tibet, Prof. Lévi's proposal to change 403 into 430 is based on no ground. The "epoch of 403 years" is not

<sup>1</sup> Prinsep, ii. 169.

rendered in Tibetan in figures but by a chronogram *mekha-g-ya-tso* which does not admit of a possible transposition in the process of copying. Further the period "403 years" is too solidly fixed and too well-attested for the interval by noted events to premise a correction (Prinsep, ii. 289).

Now "403 years" before their epoch of 1025 A.D. takes us to 622 A.D. which is really an era, the Hijra era, which Tibet came to know of very early, having come in conflict with the Arabs within the first century of the Hijra—a conflict which continued and lasted for a long time. There is not the least trace in Tibetan books of the establishment of a Tibetan era in 586 A.D., 593 A.D. or 595 A.D.—the dates proposed by Lévi.

It is not possible to hold that the years of *Aṁśuvarmān* are dated in a Tibetan Era. Prof. Lévi says that the adoption of 'the Tibetan Era' signifies the subjugation of Nepal by Tibet. If so, there is no explanation as to why the real king of Nepal, the Lichchhavi *Sivadeva* (I), contemporary of *Aṁśuvarmān* signing his writ in 316 (G. E.) = 635 A.D. does not adopt the so-called Tibetan Era. He and his successors continue to use another and an older era of three figures (the Gupta Era). If a Tibetan Era was politically introduced in Nepal, it would be expected that the Lichchhavi king in 635 A.D. should have used it as *Aṁśuvarmān* is supposed to have used it. Tibetan influence is assumed on the ground of marriage of the daughter of *Aṁśuvarmān* with the first Tibetan emperor, *Srong-tṣan-Gampo*,

whose accession date is definitely 629 A. D. But we find Amśuvaramaṇa dating his Harigaon inscription in the year 30 (625 A. D.).<sup>1</sup> If it is in a Tibetan Era the introduction of the Era would be even before the accession of Strongtsan-Gampo! And if we take 'the Tibetan Era' to commence in 586 A.D. the date of Amśuvaramaṇa's year 30 would be 616, i.e., 13 years before the accession Strongtsan-Gampo! The whole volume of evidence contradicts the possibility.<sup>2</sup> There is no room for the assumption of the introduction of a Tibetan era before 629 A.D.. Yuan Chwang who passed through the Muzafferpur district in 637 A.D. and took down notes about Nepal in that year knows nothing about any Tibetan suzerainty over Nepal and treats that kingdom as an independent one. In 650 A.D. when Taosuen compiled his *Che-kia-fan-chi*<sup>3</sup> after quoting the description by Yuan Chwang textually he adds "actually the kingdom is under the domination of the Tibetans." The era of Amśuvaramaṇa's inscriptions which go back to 625 A. D., i.e., some years even before Yuan Chwang's account, could not therefore be dated in a Tibetan Era. Then, if in the year 30 of Amśuvaramaṇa when he described himself as *Mahāsāmanta*, Nepal had been already conquered by Tibet, how could Amśuvaramaṇa strike his coins later

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, *Le Nepal*, iii, 85. This inscription was unknown to Bhagwanlal Indraji and Fleet.

<sup>2</sup> See below on the data of the Mañjuśri History and the Chinese History which definitely date the Tibetan suzerainty after Jishṇu Gupta (successor of Amśuvaramaṇa) and between 643 A. D. and 647 A. D.

<sup>3</sup> Nanjio, *Catalogue*, (No. 1470; JA., 1894, 60.)

with the full imperial title, that is, the title of an independent sovereign—‘*Mahārājādhīraja*’?<sup>1</sup> Prof. Lévi did not take account of this numismatic evidence at all, otherwise probably he would not have put forward his theory of a Tibetan conquest or suzerainty over Nepal and of introduction of a non-existent Tibetan Era into Nepal.

## II.—CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF AMSUVARMAN

The constitutional position of Amśuvarman can be gathered from certain Nepal inscriptions and his coins; and that position when ascertained throws some light also on the question of the Era used by him and his successors.

There are nine dated inscriptions on him, giving his titles, which may be compared with the titles on his coins.

<sup>1</sup> Cunningham, CAI, XIII, 5.

| <i>Years and Eras</i>            | <i>Record of</i>                                 | <i>Titles of Amśu-varman</i>              | <i>Corresponding titles on coins of Amśuvarman</i> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <sup>1</sup> 316 (635 A.D.)      | King Śivadeva (Bhaṭṭāraka mahārāja Śrī Śivadeva) | "Mahāsāmanṭa (High Feudatory) Amśuvarman" | Nil.                                               |
| <sup>2</sup> 320 (639 A.D.)      | "                                                | "                                         | "                                                  |
| <sup>3</sup> 30 New Era          | Amśuvarman                                       | "Śrī mahāsāmantā Amśuvarman"              | "                                                  |
| <sup>4</sup> 32 "                | "                                                | "                                         | "                                                  |
| <sup>5</sup> 34 "                | "                                                | "                                         | "                                                  |
| <sup>6</sup> 34 "                | "                                                | "                                         | "                                                  |
| <sup>7</sup> 39 "                | "                                                | "Śrī-Amśuvarman"                          | 'Śrī-Amśuvarma' (CAI, Pl. XIII. 4,6)               |
| <sup>8</sup> 45 or 44<br>New Era | private individual                               | "Śrī-Amśuvarman"                          | "                                                  |
| <sup>9</sup> 48 "                | King Jishnugupta ("Śrī-Jishnugupta")             | Bhaṭṭāraka-mahārājādbirāja Śrī Amśuvarman | "Mahārājādbirājasya Śryamśoh (Śrī-Amśu's)"         |

<sup>1</sup> Golmādhitol, Bhatgaon insc. Fleet, G I, Intro. 177-8; I. A.; XIV. 97; Dr. Bendall was the first to suggest the obvious conclusion from the known date of Amśuvarman that the Era must be the Gupta Era.

The inscription is by King Śivadeva I where Amśuvarman is adviser and his sister's son Bhogavarman is the *Dūtaka*.

<sup>2</sup> Khopasi, outside the valley, E of Bhatgaon, Lévi, *Le Nepal*, iii. 79 (date misread as "520" for "320").

<sup>3</sup> Lévi, *Le Nepal*, iii, 95, Pl. XIII; Harigaon insc. I.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 93, Harigaon.

<sup>5</sup> IA, IX. 169; GI, Intro. 178; Bungmati insc.

<sup>6</sup> GI, Intro. 179.

<sup>7</sup> IA, IX. 170; GI, I 179; Devapāṭan insc.

<sup>8</sup> IA, IX 171; G I, I. 180; Kathmandu conduit insc.

The above analysis would show

1. that the title *Mahāsāmanta* is given up after the 34th year by Amśuvarman, [though the Lichchhavi king still applies it to him up to 639 A.D.];
2. that *Srī* is used as title of full sovereignty, which according to books on constitutional forms and precedents may alone denote '*His Majesty.*' The same *Srī* alone we find on the coins of Māna and Guna (CAI, XIII, 1, 2);
3. that the higher—the imperial—title of *mahārājādhīrāja* must have been assumed by Amśuvarman after or in the year 44/45 and before the year 48, and that he had died before the inscription of Jishnu Gupta of the year 48;
4. that Amśuvarman was never a subordinate of the Tibetan king even up to his death (between years 44 and 48). If Amśuvarman had given his daughter to the Tibetan king, so had done the Emperor of China. The alliances prove the importance of Tibet but not suzerainty in either case;
5. that Amśuvarman adopted full kingship between the years 34 and 39, and the imperial title after 320 GI [= 639 A. D.]

श्यंशुवंम्भप्रसादेन कारिता सत्प्रणाली विभुवम्भणा . There is a doubt as to whether the figure after 40 was 4 or 5. [Nepal Government has extended the parade grounds over this water work; the insc. is lost probably buried under ground.]

<sup>9</sup> IA, XIV. 171; G I, I. 180; Lalitapāṭṭana (Chhinnamastikā Temple).

Chaitrakrishna<sup>1</sup> in or after and the 44th year;  
 6. that the era of the 44th year would therefore (639-44) begin in 595 A.D., not later.

If we take into account that he must have been alive in the year of the marriage of his daughter with the Tibetan king (641) and must have died before the year 48—and at least a year before 644 (not later, when Yuan Chwang left the plains of Mid-India), we get the same result, namely, that he died between 639 and 643, and his era was counted from 595 A.D. which he ushered in or about 625 A.D. his 30th year (30th year of his birth or his rule as *Mahāsāmanta*).

If the real position of Amśuvaraman is realized, it becomes clear that Amśuvaraman is registering his own regnal years as a subordinate ruler in his inscriptions. The Harigaon record of the year 30, which is the earliest known record of this ruler, shows his exact status. It announces maintenance grants to a number of his officers, his (old?) animals and some idols, after the fashion of 'old kings' पूर्वराजानुवृत्त्या यथोचितप्रदानानि. The record is in form a royal writ (the donor *samāññāpayati*, 'commands'). The grants are in favour of, amongst others, 'the Commander-in-Chief' (*Mahābalādhyaksha*), 'the coronation elephants,' 'the coronation horse' (*abhishekahastinah; abhishekāśvasya*), 'the standard-bearer,' 'the confidential leaders at the time of undertaking an invasion (or, procession? *Yātrā*). The writ is made known to

<sup>1</sup> Khopasi insc.

the ‘Royal Palaces’ (*rāja-prasādeshu*), and it is laid down in the end that “future kings” were not to neglect this favour of their ancestor (न कैश्चिदयम् प्रसादोन्यथा करणीयो भविष्यद्विरपि भूपतिभिर्गुरुकृतप्रसादानुवर्त्तिभिरेव भाव्यमिति) to emphasize which the Donor says that this he personally commands ‘*iti svayamājñā*’ (as opposed to, through the medium of a *dūtaka*, agent). This of course, amounts to the Donor’s own signature. The date he himself puts down along with the subscript *svayam ājñā*, ‘*sarivat 30 Jyaishṭha śukla shashṭhāyām*.’ He is thus talking in terms of a full sovereign, and is directing ‘kings’ who are to come after him. His title *mahāsāmanta* had ceased to bear its ordinary meaning and had acquired the elevated position of a royal epithet though denoting the origin, like the *Senāpati* with the name of *Pushyamitra*, ‘the sacrificer of two aśvamedhas’ (i.e. an emperor: Ayodhyā inscription) where *Pushyamitra* though already an emperor is still styled as *Senāpati* by his old title. After the style of a full sovereign *Aṁśavarman* claims the title of his throne from his respected father (बप्पपादपस्त्वितः), not from a liege-lord. In other words, any idea of being a feudatory is excluded. And it was to punctuate this that he dates the order in a New Era.

Naturally the old dynasty of the Lichchhavis does not recognise this era of their rival and ex-feudatory and they date as usual in the old Gupta Era. He counts this New or *Thākuri* Era from his birth or accession as *Mahāsāmanta*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> He is given a reign of 42 years by Kirkpatrick’s authority.

The inscription of the year 30 is evidently the first donation on assuming sovereignty. Two years later in another writ of gifts—which is a long list of pious donations (Harigaon Insc. of the year 32: Lévi, iii-92) he says that he was anxious about the happiness of his subjects: कर्थं प्रजा मे सुखिता भवेद्...In the Bungmati inscription of again two years later (year 34), he issues a charter to a village community through a dūtaka and refers to himself, addressing his successors, as ‘a former king’, पूर्वराज-कृतप्रसाद, (IA, IX. 169). He meditated at the feet of his father, that is, as formerly, there is no mention of an overlord. In the Devapāṭan inscription (IA, IX. 170) of the year 39, he is a powerful king, a reformer and has his own *yuvrāja* [‘crown prince’—Udayadeva] as dūtaka, giving a pious privilege to a foundation of his sister; but he has no title except *Srī*, just as on several issues of his coins.<sup>1</sup> Similarly in the inscription of the year 4[4] which is a private record he is referred to only as ‘*Srī-Amśavarman*.’ These two records mean that *Srī* here stands, as observed above, for ‘king’ (‘His Majesty’) and was considered quite sufficient to denote his full sovereignty.

Now let us take the inscription of Sivadeva I, the king who refers to Amśavarman. In the Bhātgaon writ of the year 316<sup>2</sup> (Gupta Era) of Sivadeva, Amśavarman is highly praised and described as a great conqueror (प्रस्याता-मलविपुलपराक्रमप्रशमितविपक्ष-प्रभावेन), and “to honour

<sup>1</sup> See CAI, XIII; Walsh, JRAS., 1908, p. 669.

<sup>2</sup> See Fleet, G I, p. 178 (*Intro.*) on the date; IA, XIV. 97; Bandall (*Journey*.)

his request" (एतद्गौरवात्) the privilege was granted to the village. Evidently here Amśuvaraman is not treated in reality as a subordinate but as an equal sovereign whose request was to be respected and a privilege granted to a village in Sivadeva's part of Nepal on the recommendation of Amśuvaraman. Sivadeva's inscription at Buddha Nilkanṭha<sup>1</sup>, wherein the date is now missing, shows still more pointedly that more honour and fuller royal honour is accorded to Amśuvaraman than to Sivadeva himself. Amśuvaraman's great and complete successes in war (यथानेक-पृथुसमरसम्पात्-विजयाधिगत-शौर्यप्रतापाहृत-सकल शत्रुपक्ष-प्रभावेन,) and his success in kingship (सम्यक् प्रजा-पालन-परिश्रमोपार्जित-शुभ्रयशोभिव्याप्तदिग्मण्डलेन) are so prominently described that it seems certain that Amśuvaraman was treated as king in these inscriptions of Sivadeva. Although Amśuvaraman was ruling over the 'West', as guessed by Fleet and now confirmed by the Mañjuśrī Imperial History (p. 20), he was practically the real sovereign of Nepal and the position of Sivadeva had been reduced to that of a nominal, courtesy king of the 'East.'<sup>2</sup> Thus in the Gupta year 316=635 A. D.

<sup>1</sup> IA, IX. 168.

<sup>2</sup> He acts as Dictator in the Eastern part of the kingdom, and as sovereign in the Western part. The grant of privilege to the village of Kurppāsi which is to the E. of Bhatgaon is made 'with the king's approval' by Amśuvaraman himself, who had dispelled ignorance by the rays of his own virtues, had established welfare by his devotion to Lord Bhava (Śiva), and had uprooted the whole lot of enemies by the strength of his own arms [ विदितमस्तु वो यथानेन स्वगुणमणिमयूखालोक-च्वस्ताजान-

Aṁśuvarman was a full sovereign, and that he had been so for some time. This position he had assumed with his inscription and grants of the year 30, whereby he fixes salaries and allowances for his royal officers. His reference to his coronation horse and his coronation elephants evidently means the animals of the time of his coronation as *mahā-sāmanta*, as there is no indication in the proclamation of any subsequent or recent coronation. His year 30 must be counted from his coronation as *mahā-sāmanta*. This year 30 being the year of assumption of his ruling powers, must, precede 635 A. D. the date in Śivadeva I's panegyric of Aṁśuvarman.

### III.—CONFUSION IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF VAMSAVALI EXPLAINED.

The Vamśāvalis note in the first place the Mānadeva whom we know to have flourished after Aṁśuvarman, and whose date is known from the inscriptions (GI, 189, I.)<sup>1</sup>; but the Vamśāvalis by a confusion register two Mānadevas *before*

तिमिरेण भगवद्भवपाद-पङ्कजप्रणामानुष्ठानतात्पर्योपात्तायतिहितश्रेयसा  
स्वभुजयुगबलोत्थाताखिलवैरिवर्गं श्रीमहासामन्तांशुवर्मणा ]

<sup>1</sup> About one Mānadeva who flourished in the Lichchhavi dynasty we have it on the basis of inscriptions that he was the son of Dharmadeva, grandson of Śaṅkaradeva, and great-grandson of Viśhadeva, and that he lived c. 705-733 A. D. (IA, IX. 163; GI. I, 182; the Chang Narayan Pillar inscription which Mānadeva, himself dated 386 = 705 A. D.; IA, IX. 166; the Paśupatinath Temple inscription of the reign of Mānadeva, dated 413 = 732-33 A. D.; IA, IX. 178 : insc. of Jayadeva II of the year 153 at Paśupati Temple mentioning Mānadeva in the genealogy giving his descendants Mahideva and Vasantadeva, son and grandson).

Amśuvarman. If we look into the list [in IA, XIII 412] we find that Mānadeva is first placed after Dharmadeva, two steps above Vasantadeva, which is his correct position in the inscriptions. Then the name is reported (as No. 25) once more after Vasantadeva (no. 23) and Udayadeva-varman (no. 24) and one step above Sivadeva (no. 27), predecessor of Amśuvarman. We have evidence for the existence of this second Mānadeva. According to the inscription of Jishṇu Gupta at Thankot<sup>1</sup> a Mānadeva who was not a Lichchhavi, ruled as the sovereign (*Bhṛṭāraka*) of Jishṇu Gupta. According to the Mañjuśri History, Udayadeva succeeded Amśuvarma and was succeeded by Jishṇu Gupta. This is correct, as Udayadeva is *Yuvarāja* of Amśuvarman in his inscription. Udayadeva came after Amśuvarman, and not before him. After the list—Vṛishadeva to Vasantadeva—which agrees literally with that in the Vamśāvalīs, the inscription of Jayadeva II gives, as unconnected with the above in the direct line, (1) Udayadeva, (2) Narendra, Narendra's son (3) Sivadeva II and the latter's son (4) Jayadeva II (inscription dated 153 = 748 A. D.) Against this the Vamśāvalīs have two different data :

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, *Le Nepal*, iii. 104.

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) IA, xiii. 413;                                                                               | (2) Kirkpatrick's Vamśāvalī<br>Lévi, ii. 92, 112                                                                                         |
| 24. Udayadeva, son of 23.                                                                        |                                                                                                                                          |
| 25. Mānadeva varman son of 24                                                                    |                                                                                                                                          |
| 26. Guṇakāmadeva varman,<br>son of 25                                                            |                                                                                                                                          |
| 27. Śivadeva varman, son of<br>26, made Devapāṭana<br>his capital                                |                                                                                                                                          |
| 28. Narendradeva varman<br>son of 27                                                             |                                                                                                                                          |
| 29. Bhīmadevavarman, son of<br>28                                                                | 28. Bhīmadevavarman—In his<br>reign the Ahir Dynasty<br>of the Guptas<br>restored, who were                                              |
| 30. Vishṇudeva varman, son<br>of 29                                                              | 29. Vishṇu Gupta                                                                                                                         |
| 31. Viśvadevavarman, son of<br>30<br>[Viśva Gupta—<br>Lévis' V.] father-in-law<br>of Amśavarman. | 30. Krishṇa Gupta<br>31. Bhūmi Gupta<br><i>New Dynasty</i><br>32. Śivadeva varman<br>expelled the Guptas<br>and restored the Sūryavamśis |
| <i>New Dynasty : Thākurīs</i>                                                                    |                                                                                                                                          |
| 32. Amśavarman                                                                                   | 33. Amśavarman                                                                                                                           |

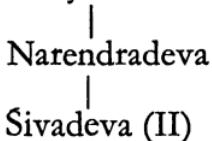
It is evident that Kirkpatrick's Vamśāvalī here accords with the facts known from inscriptions that Śivadeva [I] who is said to have restored the Sūryavamśis (i.e., the Lichchhavi dynasty, supposed to be a branch of the Ikshvākus—*Sūryavamśa*<sup>1</sup>) was followed by Amśavarman. It inserts Vishṇu Gupta (*varmā* of other Vamśāvalīs), Krishṇa Gupta, etc. before Śivadeva I, as interlopers. They, as a dynasty, are called "the Guptas," and Ahīrs by

<sup>1</sup> See IA, IX. 178, inscr. of Jayadeva II, where descent is traced from Sūrya.

caste. They were the Later Guptas of Nepal<sup>1</sup> and evidently they claimed suzerainty. They are not in the line of the Lichchhavis. ‘Bhimavarma’ is also described as ‘Bhīma Gupta’ in an earlier list of “the Guptas” wherein Harsha Gupta, Vishnu Gupta and Jaya Gupta (as the last) also figure (Lévi, ii 73)<sup>2</sup>. These are all Later Guptas. Jaya Gupta is known from his coins of c. 600 A. D.<sup>3</sup> Excluding this list of the Gupta interlopers—Bhīma (28 or 29), Vishnu (30 or 29), Krishna and Viśva or Bhūmi (31 or 30)—we get the Vāṁśāvalī list as

1. Udayadeva
2. Mānadeva
3. Guṇakama deva
4. Sivadeva
5. Narendradeva
6. Sivadeva
7. Arīśuvarman

In the light of the inscriptions, the succession is  
Udayadeva



We know the time of Sivadeva II, as he was the father of Jayadeva II who dates his inscription in 153 (748 A. D.). This Sivadeva thus

<sup>1</sup> See below.

<sup>2</sup> The List of the Guptas is given in two places, once in the beginning where Nepal history begins and then under the Lichchhavis, in its proper setting. See below.

<sup>3</sup> CMI, II, 3; CIM, p. 121. See below.

will not be the Sivadeva contemporary of Amśuvaraman, and has been rightly designated by Fleet as *Sivadeva II*. The Vamśāvalis hence have fallen into a confusion in putting Amśuvaraman below Sivadeva II owing to the identity of the names of the earlier Sivadeva [I] and the later Sivadeva [II]. The Vamśāvalis have copied two independent lists :

| I            | II         |
|--------------|------------|
| Udayadeva    | Sivadeva I |
| Narendradeva | Amśuvarman |
| Sivadeva II  |            |

In the second list which is certainly of earlier kings they had two more names above Sivadeva I—namely Mānadeva I and Gunakāmadeva. That list of earlier kings will thus be :

Mānadeva  
Gunakāmadeva  
Sivadeva I  
Amśuvarman<sup>1</sup>

*Was there, then, an earlier Mānadeva, a Mānadeva I, who flourished before Sivadeva I and Amśuvaraman, and was he succeeded by a Gunakāmadeva?*

According to the inscriptions there is no room for Gunakāmadeva either in the succession later than Sivadeva I, as Mānadeva of Jayadeva's inscription was succeeded by Mahideva, his son, who was succeeded by his son Vasantā-

<sup>1</sup> See further discussion below.

*d e v a* (also called *Vasantasena*). There is also no room for a *Guptakāmadeva* in the other list beginning with *Udayadeva* which the inscriptions of Jayadeva II and Jishnu Gupta fix as *Udayadeva*—[*Mānadeva*]—*Narendradeva*—*Sivadeva II*—*Jayadeva II*. As we shall see below there is no room for a *Guptakāmadeva* to come in between *Udayadeva* and his son *Narendradeva*. Here coins help us. The *Mānānika* and *Guptānika* coins are twins, one follows the other. We have thus the most positive evidence for the existence of *Gupta* (*kāma*) *d e v a*.<sup>1</sup> *Mānadeva*, predecessor of *Guptakāmadeva* has to come earlier than *Amśuvarman* and *Sivadeva I*.

Let us see if we have any other proof for the existence of a *Mānadeva I*, that is, a *Mānadeva* before *Sivadeva I*.

#### IV.—MANADEVA I.

There is good evidence for the existence of an earlier *Mānadeva*, earlier than *Amśuvarman*, who should be called *Mānadeva I*. *Amśuvarman* himself mentions a ‘*Mānagriha* gate’ to his palace, a god *Māneśvara*, a vihāra *Māna-vihāra*. *Sivadeva I* issues his charter from *Mānagriha*. This would show that there was a *Mānadeva* before *Amśuvarman* and *Sivadeya I*.

This is again confirmed by the *Mañjuśrī Imperial History* (p. 20).<sup>2</sup> It introduces the Lichchhavi line

<sup>1</sup> The style *Mānānika* and *Guptānika* has been imitated from the *Gupta* coin legend *Vikramānika* of *Chandragupta II* and other *Guptas* (Cf. *Garudamadañka* and *Parākramānika* of *Samudra Gupta*. Lévi, ii 108.)

<sup>2</sup> See extract below, § VI.

with *Mānavadeva* which has been rightly taken by Lévi to be a mistake for *Mānadeva*. He is placed there definitely before *Vṛishadeva* and as his predecessor. In the *Vamśāvalī* there is no *Mānavadeva* above *Vṛishadeva*. *Vṛishadeva's* time is about 650 A.D. (G.I., p. 189, *Intro.*). The whole succession of 6 generations, from *Vṛishadeva* to *Vasantadeva II*, is one from father to son. *Vasantadeva* dates his charter in 415<sup>1</sup> (G.E. = 734 A.D.). The inscriptions of *Vṛishadeva's* great grandson *Mānadeva* are<sup>2</sup> dated 705-732 A.D. *Vṛishadeva* came to the throne some time after *Sivadeva I*. In the genealogy of the *Vamśāvalis* we have this order:

- 16 *Sivadeva varman* (Lévi's *V*, ii. 92).
- 17 *Rudradeva varman*
- 18 *Vṛishadeva varman* (I.A., XIII. 412).

Here it is evident that the *Sivadeva I* of the inscriptions is the *Siva (deva) varman* of the *Vamśāvalis*. *Rudradeva varman* is omitted in some *Vamśāvalis* (Lévi, ii. 92), probably he is the same as *Dhruvadeva* of the inscription of *Jishnu Gupta* under whom *Jishnu-Gupta* grants privileges (I.A., IX. 171).

### *Exact Date of Mānadeva I*

We have now, thanks to the researches of my revered and learned friend the *Rājaguru Sri* 6 Pandit *Hemarāja Sarmā*, C.I.E., a material on the exact date of this *Mānadeva*, i.e., *Mānadeva I* has come to light. It is contained in a

<sup>1</sup> See below, the date is 415, not 435 as read by Bhagwanlal Indraji (I.A., IX. 167).

<sup>2</sup> I.A., IX. 163, 166; Fleet, G.I., I., 182.

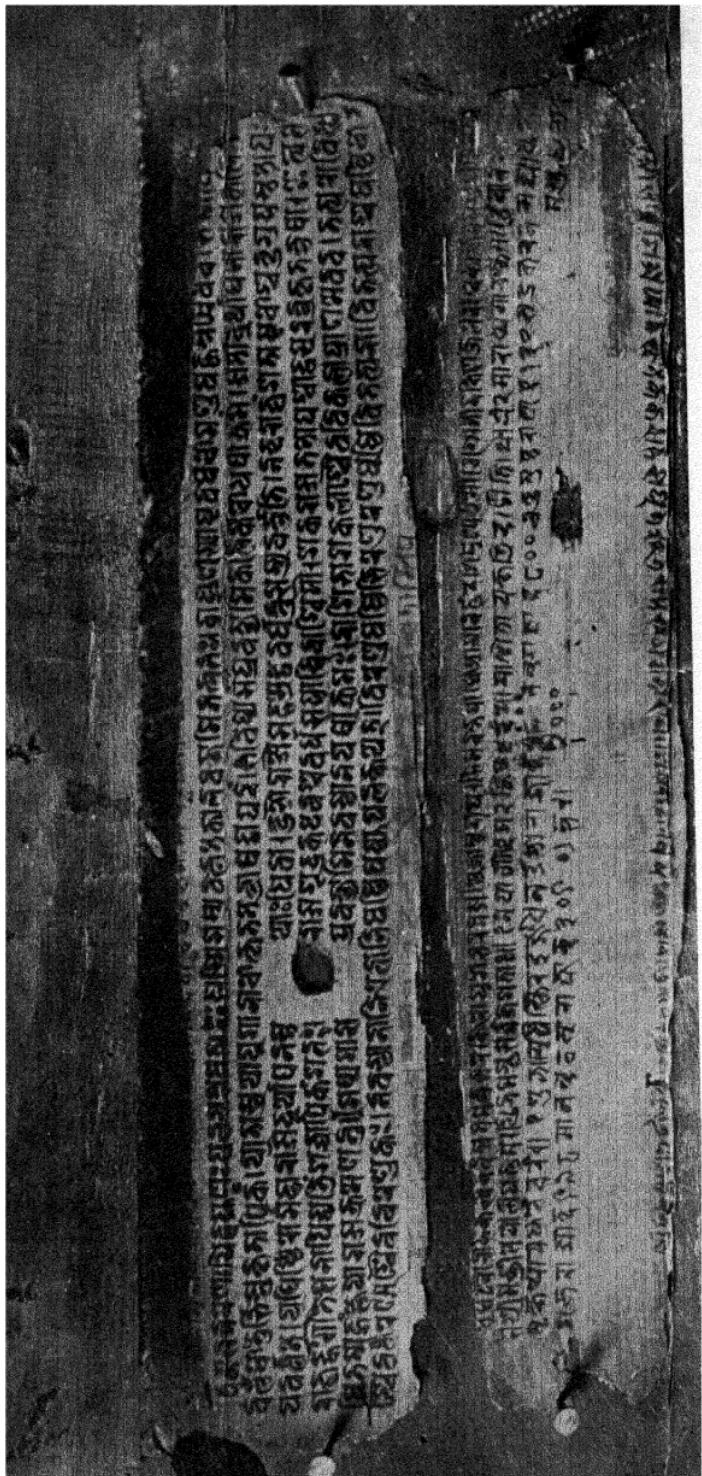
palm-leaf manuscript which gives his date as equivalent of 576 A. D. The Rājaguru, when he gave me his datum, was of opinion that this Mānadeva for whom he supplied the date from the manuscript was the Mānadeva of the inscription of Changu Nārāyan and that it proved a Mānadeva Era which was the era used by Amśuvarman. While I do not accept those views on account of Mānadeva's (III's)<sup>1</sup> dated inscriptions at Changu Nārāyan and Paśupatināth and the other dated inscriptions discussed above and the cross-checks for Amśuvarman's years, I gratefully utilize the datum in establishing the time of an earlier Mānadeva, Mānadeva I.

There is a manuscript of a book on Hindu Astronomy called *Sumati-tantra*, which belongs to the State Library of Nepal. The manuscript is in characters what are locally known as the *Gomō lipi*. From its script the date of the palm-leaf manuscript would be the 12th century. I reproduce the pages from a photograph very kindly given to me for that purpose by the learned Rājaguruji. I am told by that scholar that, in the body of the work, in giving examples of calculations the author uses as a pivot the equivalent of the Christian year 576. This would indicate that the author lived very near that date. The author by a chronogram which is contained in the first folio photographed gives the following chronology in verses in Sanskrit of the type of the *Mañjuśrī-mūla-kalpa* and other Buddhist works. These verses I

<sup>1</sup> Mānadeva II is the Mānadeva of Jishṇu Gupta's insc.



## Leaves of the Sumati-tantra



reproduce below from the photograph. Beginning with the Kali Era, i.e. 3102 B.C., '*the reign of Yudhishthira and Duryodhana*', the author roundly puts 2000 years for the pre-Nanda period and 800 years more for the pre-Chandragupta (Maurya) period. He gives further 132 years to the Maurya kingdom; then 247 years to that of Śūdraka, that is, the Sātavāhanas. This brings us to the era of Saka. Then there is an interval of 498 years. On the next page, a subsequent annotator has noted at the end that this interval of 498 brings the chronology to the reign of Mānadeva, and the kingdom of Mānadeva is brought down by 304 years i.e., down to the Nepal Era. The initial year of the Nepal Era falls in 879-880 A.D. (the year beginning on the 1st Kārtika Sudi—*G.I.*, Intro. 74). 498 years before it will take us to 576 A.D. as the year of Mānadeva I. Knowing as we do the initial year of Saka—78 A.D., 498 years after it brings us to the same year ( $78 + 498 =$ ) 576 A.D. These three dates are the only definite dates which the Nepal astronomers—the author of the *Sumati-tantra* (the '*Sumati system*') and the annotator—knew: the Saka era, and the initial year of Mānadeva I, and the Nepal Era. The annotator could calculate it from both the eras if he knew the correct interval from either. In the 12th century when the book was copied it is very likely that the astronomers of Nepal knew the correct date of Mānadeva I. I have myself seen a number of hand-written books in possession of the Rājaguru which are note-books of the past centuries of Nepal astronomers, recording chief contemporary events,

made and left as heirlooms, for future use by their successors. Documents four and three hundred years old both on paper and palm-leafs are commonplace in Nepal families even today. I found one family possessing two hundred palm-leaf sale-deeds of the time of the Malla dynasty. They bear the original royal seals intact.<sup>1</sup> I saw a whole book—a long paper-roll folded as pages—which was originally written in 721 N.E = 1601 A.D. by the builder of the *Mahābodhi* temple at Bhatgaon, noting in full the description of the process of building the temple as a guide for future repairs. The book is being used today for repairing the damages caused by the earthquake of 1934. The habit of valuing old records and the climate are both in favour of this fortunate circumstance. It is thus reasonable to suppose that the annotator of the *Sumati-tantra* actually had reliable records before him for the date of *Mānadeva I.*

The chronology before the Saka Era is not reliable, but its dates about *Chandragupta Maurya* and the dynasty of *Sūdraka* (*Simuka* = *Sūdraka Sātavāhana*) are interesting, being very near the true marks.

<sup>1</sup> Three of these I have brought and deposited at the Patna Museum. We have discovered in British India thousands of sealings of Hindu times but not a single example of a document with a sealing attached. Now we can see from the Nepal documents, discovered for the first time, how the seals were actually attached to documents by the royal office. They were clay (unbaked) sealings of a very cementing composition. A strip of palm-leaf tied the document after the fashion of inserting strips of leather in our leather shoes and then the joint was sealed. I hope to publish these examples in this Journal.

The text is as follows :—

L2.) .. . . . यातास्तथा युगाना(–)वा कृत मन्ता(?) अ हापरं ।

भविष्यं संप्रवक्ष्यामि कालिकं वा यथाक्रमं ।

जातो दुर्योधनो राजा कलि ( . . ) (L3.) प्रवर्तते ।

युधिष्ठिरो महाराजो दुर्योधनस्तथाऽपि वा ।

उभौ राजो सहस्रे ह्वे वर्षन्तु सम्प्रवर्तते ।

नन्दराज्यं शताष्टं वा इच्छ्रगुप्तस्ततो पर (म्) ।

L4.) राज्यङ्कुरोति तेनापि ह्रांत्रिशष्ठ्याधिकं शतम् ।

राजा शूद्रकदेवश्च वर्षसप्ताधिधचाहिवनो ।

शकराजा ततो पश्चाद्द्वासुरन्ध्रकृतन्तथा ।

इत्येते (भा) (L5.) वितं महां ज्ञेया राजा कमेणतु

[Note] .. . . युधिष्ठिर दुर्योधन उभौ राज्याब्द २००० [ , ] नन्द राज्याब्द ८०० [ , ] चन्द्रगुप्त राज्याब्द १३२ [ , ] शूद्रकदेव राज्याब्द .. . . शक राज्याब्द ४९८ [ , ] मानदेवस्य राज्याब्द ३०४ [ . ] शुभम्

The translation is :

(Line 3) Duryodhana was born in Kali.

Yudhish्ठira and Duryodhana : “*the two kings last for 2000 years.*”

“*Nanda’s kingdom (rājya) lasts for 800 years.*”

“*Chandragupta is after that. He also rules for 132 years.*”

“*The king Śūdraka for 7, 4 (abdhī) and 2 (aśvināu) (i.e. for 247) years.*”

“*After that, similarly, king Saka, 8, 9, 4 (that is, for 498) years.*”

For the *Nanda-rājya*, it gives the year (3102 B. C.—2000 =) 1102 B. C., and for the beginning of the *Maurya* kingdom it gives (1102-800 =) 302 B. C., for the *Sātavāhana* kingdom, (302-132 =) 170 B. C., and for the *Saka* kingdom, (247-170 =) 77 A. D.

(elapsed) i.e. 78 A. D. The dates for the commencement of the Maurya kingdom and the Sātavāhana kingdom are short by about 22 years each. The year for the commencement of the Nanda-Rājya is hopelessly wide off the mark.

It is clear that the author of the chronology took chief reigns as land-marks, and not always eras. There were Yudhishtira, Nanda, and Saka Eras, but there was no Chandragupta Era, there was no Sūdraka Era. There is no trace of an Era of Mānadeva I, for we find Sivadeva I the Lichchhavi using not a recent era but the Gupta Era in 635 A. D. Nor could the Era of Amśuvarman be a Mānadeva Era, commencing from 576 A. D., for in that case Amśuvarman must be dead in  $(576 + 48 =) 624$  A. D. but he was alive in 635 A. D. (the date of Sivadeva I's inscription and later (see above). Evidently the author was a contemporary of Mānadeva I and used his coronation year for his calculations.

We are on firm ground in taking 576 A. D. as the first year of Mānadeva I, as it receives corroboration not only from the script on the *Mānānika* coin, which Dr. V. Smith assigned to the 6th century A.D. (C. I. M., p. 281) but also from the dates of Viśhadeva and Sivadeva I, before whom Mānadeva I must come.

Another copy of the *Sumati-tantra* is in the British Museum Library. It is a palm leaf manuscript dated in Nepal Era, 476 (1356 A. D.). The copy is much later than the one to which reference is made above. With its help we have to read *Kali-sandhyam* in our line 2. It reads *śatāṣṭhañcha* against *śatāṣṭham vā*

(line 3) of my manuscript<sup>1</sup>. While these are minor improvements, the two important figures for *Sūdraka* and *Saka-rājā* are clearly wrong in the British Museum copy which reads राजा शूद्रक देवश्च वर्ष सप्ता द्वि चाश्विनी in place of " " " " विष्णु, and शक राजा ततो पश्चाद्ब्रह्मसु चन्द्रं कृतन्तथा, in place of " " " " रन्ध्र "

These two figures would date the Saka era twenty years earlier than its true date which the other manuscript gives correctly. The interval between Saka and Mānadeva, read by it as of 418 years as against 498, is proved to be wrong by the next interval of 304 years which brings the chronology to 880 A.D., the beginning of the Nepal Era. The British Museum ms. will put Mānadeva at 496 A. D. (418—78 A. D.) or at 476 A. D. taking its other mistake (of 20 years placing Saka at 58 A. D.). The last interval of 304 will then bring the chronology to 800 A. D. or 780 A. D., that is, there will be a discrepancy of 80 or 100 years. The two mistakes in the British Museum copy are produced by simple misreadings in Nepal scripts: *dvi* (द्वि) for *bdhi* (ब्धि) and *chandra* (चन्द्र) for *rāndhra* (रन्ध्र).

The British Museum copy has a prose line after the text ending with *kramena tu* which is not to be found in the older manuscript—

सेषा युताश्च कृत अम्बराग्नि ३०४ श्रीमानदेवाब्द —प्रयुज्यमाना  
एतानि पिण्डकलिवर्षमाहः ॥

<sup>1</sup> Catalogue of the Sanskrit Manuscripts in the British Museum by Cecil Bendall, (1902), pp. 193-94, 467. No. 3564. Although the opening passage quoted gives the name as *Sumati-tantra*, it is wrongly catalogued as *Sumata*.

"The rest (of the kings), added together, employ the year (era ?) of Mānadeva for 304 (years)—these years are called the collective Kali reckoning."

Dr. Bendall, not following the chronology of the text, added the figure 418 (after Saka) to 304 and obtained 800 A. D. as the date of Mānadeva, while Mānadeva begins, according to the system followed in the chronology, when the 498 or 418 period after Saka ends.

## V.—LICHCHHAVI KINGS

The complete list of the L i c h c h h a v i kings as in the Varnśāvalīs may be divided in three parts.

### I

| Serial numbers according to<br>the order in the Varnśāvalīs.<br>(I.A., XIII. 412; Lévi, ii.<br>91-92, 122). | Names noted in<br>Jayadeva II's<br>inscription.                                      | And other<br>inscrip-<br>tions.                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>1</sup> . Bhūmivarman<br>(capital at Bāñēś-<br>vara).                                                | Names Nos. 1,2, 4-16 purposely<br>omitted in Jayadeva II's insc.<br>(I.A., IX. 178). | Names Nos. 1,2, 4-16 purposely<br>omitted in Jayadeva II's insc.<br>(I.A., IX. 178). |

<sup>1</sup> Kirkpatrick's authority gives five more names to this dynasty which is unanimously called Śūrya - Vamśī. These five names are given separately by the Varnśāvalīs, other than Kirkpatrick's, under S o m a v a m ś ī Dynasty. This is a wrong division, as the Varnśāvalīs themselves note the connexion between B h ā s k a r a v a r m a n (no. 5 and the last) of the so called *Soma vamśa* and B h ū m i v a r m a n (no. 1 of the Śūryavamśa) as that of adoptive father and son. How could then the Vamśa change?

## 2. Chandravarman

|     |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.  | <i>Jayadeva</i> <sup>1</sup> I                                                                                                         | Jayadeva I according                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4.  | Varsha-varman<br>[Vṛishavarman<br>I K.]                                                                                                | to J.II's insc. he was founder of the Nepal dynasty. An earlier king <i>Supushpa</i> is noted as having flourished at Pushpapura; "omitting 23 Kings" there comes Jayadeva I |
| 5.  | Sarva-varman                                                                                                                           | 'the victorious.' Then omitting in the interval eleven kings,                                                                                                                |
| 6.  | Pṛithvi-varman                                                                                                                         | there comes the 12th according to the inscription but the 18th Vṛisahaddeva, according to                                                                                    |
| 7.  | Jyeshṭha-varman                                                                                                                        | the Vamśāvalīs                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8.  | Hari-varman                                                                                                                            | Sivadeva I <sup>3</sup>                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9.  | Kuvera-varman                                                                                                                          | (I. A., IX.)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 10. | Siddhi-varman                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11. | Haridatta (built<br>4 Nārāyaṇa Tem-<br>ples including<br>Changu Nara-<br>yan and Nilak-<br>anṭha Jalaśaya-<br>na <sup>2</sup> Temples) | Dhruvadeva                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12. | Vasudatta                                                                                                                              | I.A., IX. 173                                                                                                                                                                |
| 13. | Śrīpati                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 14. | Śivavṛiddhi-<br>(varman)                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 15. | <i>Vasantadeva</i> I                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 16. | Śivadeva I                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                              |

<sup>1</sup> 'Jayavarma' in the Vamśāvalis which have throughout for nos. 1 to 14 name-ending *varman*. Kirkpatrick's Vamśāvalī has *deva* from no. 15 onwards, while other copies occasionally add *varman* to *deva*. Inscriptions have always *deva*. I have followed generally K.'s list for name-forms. His copy is the oldest and more valuable.

<sup>2</sup> *Jalaśayana*, a colossal, lying figure of Vishṇu, is a magnificent stone image in Gupta style.

<sup>3</sup> I.A., XIV. 97 (Bendall); I.A., IX. 168 (Bhagwanlal Indraji); Lévi, iii, 61, *Dūtaka-Bhogavarmagomin*, mentioning the request of Aṁśuvaraman; the date is wholly gone. Prof. Lévi insists on reading all figures in Sivadeva's records as 500 (+) instead of 300 (+) as read by Bhagwanlal Indraji, Bendall and Fleet. The last record has no trace of the date, yet he sees here also 500. The reading 300 (+) is corroborated by the figures in records of subsequent kings—of Mānadeva II, Vasantasena, etc. (386, 413, 435) (G.I., I. 180) and by the new, Khopasi, insc. of Sivadeva I published by Lévi himself (iii. 79) where his plate (XII) reads clearly 300 (+20). This also mentions Aṁśuvaraman.

## II

|     |                                                                                            |                  |                             |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 17. | Rudradeva <sup>1</sup><br>(given by some<br>and omitted<br>by K.)                          |                  |                             |
| 18. | Vṛishadeva II (a<br>noted Buddhist<br>pious founder)                                       | (12) Vṛishadeva  | Vṛishadeva<br>I.A., IX. 16; |
| 19. | Śaṅkaradeva<br>[Revival of Śai-<br>vism (erected<br>a trident at<br>Paśupati) <sup>2</sup> | (13) Śaṅkaradeva | Śaṅkaradeva                 |
| 20. | Dharmadeva                                                                                 | (14) Dharmadeva  | Dharmadeva                  |
| 21. | Mānadeva                                                                                   | (15) Mānadeva    | Mānadeva                    |
| 22. | Mahideva                                                                                   | (16) Mahideva    |                             |
| 23. | Vasantadeva II                                                                             | (17) Vasantadeva | Vasantasena                 |

Jayadeva II omits the first two names of the list and he counts 17 as against (23-2) 20 successions<sup>3</sup> down to Vasantadeva II. There are therefore 3 extra names in the V. list, or, rather, 5 if we transpose Mānadeva and Guṇakāmādeva from the part III (see below, and § IV above). These extra names fall between no. 3 Jayadeva I, and no. 18 Vṛishadeva, the later names being confirmed by inscriptions. And as the existence of nos. 16 and 17 (Dhruvadeva) is certain from contemporary records, the excess has to be adjusted between no. 3 and no. 15 taking account of Mānadeva I

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, ii. 92, 95-96, regards him as identical with Śivadeva and thinks that the name is transposed from the Malla list.

<sup>2</sup> The trident is still existing. The big metal Nandi, attributed to him by some Varmśāvalīs to his son, is also still there.

<sup>3</sup> The Varmśāvalīs regard the successions as from father to son in each case, which is to be ignored unless confirmed by the evidence of inscriptions or contemporary writers.

and Guṇakāmadeva. According to the inscription of Jayadeva II and the evidence on Mānadeva I and Guṇakāmadeva the kings have to be numbered thus:

1. Jayadeva I (*c.* 350 A.D.)
- 2-7. Six kings (which should include Hāridatta, see below), against 11 of the Vamśavalis
8. Vasantadeva I
9. Mānadeva I, 576 A.D. (see § IV)
10. Guṇakāmadeva
11. Sivadeva I—635-639 A.D. (Khopasi insc. 320 G. E.)
- 11a. Dhruvadeva *c.* 643 A.D. (Jishṇu Gupta's insc. of yr. 48) not taken into account probably owing to his being an unlawful successor
12. Vṛishadeva
13. Saṅkaradeva
14. Dharmadeva, 705 A.D.
15. Mānadeva II, 705, 732 A.D.
16. Mahīdeva
17. Vasantadeva II, 735 A.D. [G.E. 415<sup>1</sup>; dead in 732 A.D., yr. 153, *āśit*]

Out of Nos. 4 to 14 of the Vamśavalis (wherein the extra five names must fall), Hāridatta, no. 11, must be a correct name. Vaishṇavism was introduced into his reign and his Vaishṇava monuments can still be identified. Although the present temple of Changū Nārāyan is much later but that the shrine must go back to about his time is proved by the inscription

<sup>1</sup> The reading of the figure is 415, not 435; cf. plate 2 in I.A., IX, with plate 3.

of Mānadeva II on the dhvaja standard at Chaṅgu-nārāyan, which is in early Gupta style<sup>1</sup>, and, by the grand Jālaśayana figure at Nilakanṭha which is again typically Guptan, and which is mentioned by Arīśuvarman in his Harigaon inscription of year 32.<sup>2</sup> As to the other names we have at present no means to check and to accept or reject. But there should be a presumption of correctness in their favour, as a very high percentage of data in the lists of the Varmśāvalīs is proved to be correct. The number of 11 princes of the list as against 6 out of the unnamed 11 of the inscription of Jayadeva II means that between Jayadeva I and Vasantadeva I (no. 1 to 8 of my list above) the first eight kings, there were two contemporary lines ruling as in the later period. This system of double rule seems to have been borrowed from the home constitution of the Lichchhavis of Vaiśālī.

The Varmśāvalīs after their no. 23 present a great confusion, which has been already solved with the help of the inscriptions to some extent, and the solution can be carried further with the help of new data.

### III

This portion of the so-called Lichchhavi list I am marking as part III. The list is a mixture of the names of the EARLY THĀKURI Dynasty with some names of the Lichchhavis transposed and

<sup>1</sup> It is also mentioned by Arīśuvarman at Harigaon (Lévi, iii. 94).

<sup>2</sup> Lines 14-15 (Lévi, iii. 95).

names of one more dynasty, 'Gupta-Ahīr', that is, the Later Guptas of Nepal (see § 6—7).

*Vamśāvalī list*

Kirkpatrick, 260; Bhagwanlal Indraji, 13.I.A. 413.

Wright, 124—130; Lévi, ii. 92, 122.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24. Udayadeva<br>25. Mānadeva<br>26. Guṇakāmdeva<br>27. Sivadeva ('transferred the seat of government to Devapāṭana')<br>28. Narendradeva<br>29. Bhīmadeva varman<br><br>According to K's V.,<br>Gupta<br>Dynasty of<br>Ahīr caste | 30. Vishṇu gupta (K) (Vishṇudeva<br>vatman—others)<br>31. Viśva Gupta (Viśvavarman—<br>others) gave his daughter in<br>marriage to <i>Amīśvarman</i> ,<br>founder of the Thākuri Dynasty.<br>K's <i>Vam.</i> gives after no. 30—<br>31. Kishnu Gupta<br>32. Bhūmi Gupta |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

33. Sivadeva expelled the Guptas; and restored the  
 Sūryavamśī (the Lichchhavi) dynasty (K.)  
 A m s u v a r m a n [595—539 + (?) A.D.]

Against this we have the following succession from inscriptions (I.A., IX. 170, 174, 178).

[*Vam.*] *Inscriptions*

[24.] Udayadeva, (*Yuvavarāja* in yr. 39) deposed by his younger brother (Chinese History).  
 [25.] Mānadeva (III) (evidently brother of 24, as 27 Narendradeva, restored by Tibetans, was son of 24).

[28.] Narendradeva [ruling from 634 to 657, according to Chinese (Thang) History].

[29.] *Sivadeva II.*, yr. 119.  
Jaya deva II, yr. 153 (Varṇśāvalīs omit him).

The order in V. between 27 and 28 is transposed, and Guṇakāmadeva is brought down from below Mānadeva I (above Sivadeva I) to be placed below no. 25 Mānadeva III, above Sivadeva II.

These are all later than Amśuvaraman whose last date in inscriptions in the year 44 (or 45). These are all, as we shall see presently, Thākuri names. Jaya deva II, son of Narendradeva, is neither in the Thākuri list nor the Lichchhavi list of the Varṇśāvalīs. The reason for this is explained in the Thākuri section. Amśuvaraman has been placed in the V. list after Sivadeva II who lived about the year 119. There is fortunately only one Amśuvaraman and we easily detect the mistake. There have been two mistakes. No. 25 and 26 have been removed from their place above Sivadeva I to be placed, above Sivadeva II. Amśuvaraman's history is transferred to the time of Sivadeva II from Sivadeva I which is evident from K.'s copy. In the eighteenth century, Varṇśāvalī copies still preserved the close association of the history of Sivadeva I and Amśuvaraman, and Kirkpatrick's copy for that reason introduced even a third Sivadeva (no. 33). But later editions noting (correctly) only two Sivadevas, cut Amśuvaraman off from Sivadeva altogether owing to their insertion of several names (nos. 30, 31,

32) above Amśuvarman's, which fortunately for us Kirkpatrick's copy specially notes as names of an intervening family who were defeated by Sivadeva I. That Sivadeva II can not be a contemporary of Amśuvarman is clear from the dated inscription of Sivadeva II (of the year 119) and from the date of his father known to us from Chinese History based on contemporary writings.

Now as to the "Guptas" who were expelled by Sivadeva I according to Kirkpatrick's *Vamśāvalī*, is there any trace of theirs in the inscriptions?

These Guptas seem to be the ancestors of Jishṇu Gupta whose inscriptions we have as nos. 9, 10, and 11 of Bhagwanlal Indraji (I.A., IX. 171, 173). A new inscription of his is published by Lévi (*Nepal*, iii. 102, pl. XVII; *Thankot* inscription). The last one bears the date (samvat) 44(40 + 4)<sup>1</sup> the figure for 40 is distinct (line 30th). The writ was dated while *Bhāṭṭāraka* (Sovereign) Sri Mānadeva [II] was '*the banner of the enthroned family*' at Mānagṛihā; it was issued by Sri Jishṇu Gupta Deva from Kailāsakūṭabhavana<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to imagine how could Prof. Lévi read 500! I am giving an enlarged copy of the portion (beginning of line 30) from his plate. See my plate VII.

<sup>2</sup> *Kailāsakūṭa* was the seat of the Dictator, and *Mānagṛihā* was the seat of the nominal king. Amśuvarman built this famous Palace *Kailāsakūṭa*, of which he is very proud in his *Sanga* insc. (Lévi, iii 99). His family after him ruled from it (we have reference to it in inscriptions down to the time of Sivadeva II (9I.A. 174), while the Lichchhavis lived at their Palace *Mānagṛihā*, (G.I, I, 188-189) built evidently by Mānadeva I (576 A.D.—) as Amśuvarman named one of the gates of his own palace after *Mānagṛihā*. In this inscription we have the novel position that Mānadeva (II), a younger son of

It confirmed a donation, the document of which had been lost; it was originally made by the great grandfather (*prapitāmaha*) of Jishṇu Gupta, whose name was Mānagupta Gomin. It refers to certain taxes payable in kārshāpaṇas and one of the taxes was *Malla-kara*. This had been evidently imposed to meet the incursions of the Mallas which were put an end to by Mānadeva III who in his Changu Nārāyan inscription says that he crossed the Gaṇḍakī with his cavalry and elephants and conquered the Malla towns (Lévi, iii, 14)<sup>1</sup>.

Mānagupta Gomin must have been a subordinate ruler having Thankot, i.e. the beginning of the valley, under his jurisdiction. The title *gomin* meant in Gupta times 'honourable'

Āṁśuvarman and a younger brother of Udayadeva (§ IX) is installed by Jishṇu Gupta (who calls himself 'king,' 'deva') at Mānagṛihā and he himself takes his residence at Kailāsakūṭa. This shows that Kailāsakūṭa was the official seat of the official Dictator.

For the time being by the above arrangement the Lichchhavi Dynasty was wholly dispossessed on the death of Āṁśuvarman. But this was only for a year or so, for soon after we find the Lichchhavi king Dhruvadeva at Mānagṛihā once more during the Dictatorship of Jishṇu Gupta. Jishṇu Gupta in both cases was the real ruler, and although the Vāṁśavalis ignore him, he is noted as king by the Mañjuśrī History (§ VI).

The family emblem of the Thākurīs was Nandi seated on Kailāsakūṭa—see plate 12, I.A, IX.

The latest mention of Mānagṛihā is found in the Isapaligaon inscription of the year 489–808 A.D. published by Lévi in his volume iii, pl. VIII, p. 59. [This inscription, where the writing is distinctly much advanced, most effectively destroys the theory of Lévi to read the date figures in Śivadeva I's inscriptions as 500 + , instead of 300 + as read by Bhagwanlal and confirmed by Fleet and Bendall].

<sup>1</sup> This text (lines 22-25) was recovered from the buried portion of the pillar, not available to Bhagwanlal Indraji.

and is used as a name-ending in respectable names—e.g. *Chandra gomin*, the Grammarian, *Bhogavarmagomin* in Amśuvarman's inscription. Māna Gupta is not described as a king, or given any title. The two generations before Jishṇu Gupta would cover the two names Vishṇu Gupta (no. 30) and Viśva Gupta (31), the latter being the father-in-law of Amśuvarman, whose place in K.'s Varīs. is given to Bhūmi-Gupta (32). Viśva Gupta and Bhūmi-Gupta were the last of the Nepal Guptas, and Śivadeva I defeated them and "restored" the Lichchhavi dynasty. Evidently the Lichchhavi dynasty had suffered an eclipse at the hands of these 'the Ahir' Guptas, probably in the time of or just after Guṇakāmadēva I, as no coin is struck by Śivadeva I.

Jishṇu Gupta described himself (under Mānadeva II) as an ornament of the moon dynasty (*Somārvaya-bhūshana*) and as having succeeded to a hereditary throne. Kirkpatrick's authority relates that these 'Aheer' Guptas were a branch of the Goalā Guptas. But the Nepal Guptas claimed to be Kshatriyas of the Moon Dynasty. The Moon Standard on the coins of the Imperial Guptas implies the same claim. Jishṇu Gupta is not mentioned in the Vamśāvalīs or the inscriptions of the Lichchhavis or the Thākurīs. Officially he was the Dictator; his *Yuvarāja* Vishṇu Gupta did not come to the throne. The way he refers to Amśuvarman [*śrī Amśuvarmapādaib*, IA, IX. 172] shows that he was related to him, evidently through the latter's marriage

with Viśva Gupta's daughter. Jishṇu-Gupta seems to have been the son of Viśva Gupta. He to make room for himself in the Lichchhavi constitution—for the position which had been occupied by Amśuvaraman, and which lasted up to the year 320 (639 A.D.) when Sivadeva I inscribed his last known order—seems to have removed Mānadeva II, the usurper, the second son of Atiśuvarman, and set up Dhruvadeva Lichchhavi in the brief period of his total dictatorship of 3 or 4 years. In the inscription under the sovereignty of Dhruvadeva (IA, IX. 171) he protests that he belongs to a pious family (*punyānvaya*) and that his rule is supported by the Pauras (*paurā śrītaśāsana*), which probably implies commotion about the year 48 (643 A.D.) when very soon he was going to be dispossessed by Narendra, son of Udayadeva. Both he and Dhruvadeva are ignored in the Vāṁśāvalīs and Thākuri inscriptions, as usurpers. Except for the Mañjuśrī History<sup>1</sup> we have had no reference to him in literature. He imitates the coins of Amśuvaraman.

Dhruvadeva did not belong to the direct Lichchhavi line and his selection as king must have been at the cost of Viśhadeva. There is no coin of Dhruvadeva; the right of coinage was exercised by Jishṇu Gupta.

We can date the order of succession of this part thus, taking Udayadeva the *Yuvāraja* as the eldest son of Amśuvaraman:

<sup>1</sup> See below, § VI.

| <i>Lichchhavis</i>                                                                                                                      | <i>Guptas</i>                    | <i>Thākurīs</i>                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Dhruvadeva<br>(643 A.D.) <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                   | JishṇuGupta<br>with his Yuvarāja | Udayadeva                                          |
| Vṛishadeva                                                                                                                              | VishṇuGupta<br>(yr. 48)          | Mānadeva II<br>(between yrs.<br>44 and 48)         |
| Saṅkaradeva                                                                                                                             |                                  |                                                    |
| Dharmadeva [upto 705,<br>defeated and killed the<br>Tibetan in 705 A.D.,<br>(JRAS, 1880, 438) and<br>set up four Pillars of<br>Victory] |                                  |                                                    |
| Mānadeva III, 386 GE.<br>(=705-732)                                                                                                     |                                  | Narendradeva<br>(643-657) <sup>1</sup>             |
| Mahīdeva (after 413 GE. =<br>732 A.D.)                                                                                                  |                                  | Sivadeva II,<br>yr. 119 (714<br>A.D.) <sup>2</sup> |
| Vasantadeva 415 GE.<br>(=734 A.D.)                                                                                                      |                                  | Jayadeva II,<br>yr. 153<br>(748 A.D.)              |

J a y a d e v a II after detailing the Lichchhavi family from Vṛishadeva to Vasantadeva II gives 'within' (*asya antare*) the period of this dynasty (*varnśasya*) his own genealogy contemporary with those Lichchhavi kings. He naturally omitted the interlopers J i s h ḍ u - G u p t a, Mānadeva III, and D h r u v a d e v a. Owing to D h r u v a d e v a intervening between

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, ii, 164. Narendradeva, son of Udayadeva, succeeded with the help of the Tibetans and was ruling in 643, while the year (48) in which the reign of Dhruvadeva is dated, also corresponds to 643 A.D.

<sup>2</sup> His reign (714 A.D.) falling 57 years after his father's, he must have been a baby on the death of his father.

Sivadeva I and Vṛishadeva, the Lichchhavi kings are taken up from Vṛishadeva, and after finishing that line the contemporaries—the Thākurīs—are given, which necessitates the omission of Amśuvarman. The descendants of Amśuvarman probably imply a claim to be Lichchhavis by the inscription of Jayadeva II. This is explained by the statement in some Varṇśāvalīs (cited in Landon's *Nepal*, ii. 315) that Amśuvarman had been adopted as son by Sivadeva I. This seems to explain the anomalous position of the Thākurīs both in the inscription of Jayadeva II (IA, IX. 178) and the Varṇśāvalī list. This also explains the revolutions in the time of JishṇuGupta, Mānadeva II and Dhruvadeva.

When Jayadeva II wrote his inscription in the year 153=748 A.D. the Lichchhavi dynasty had already become extinct with the death of Vasanta-deva II who is mentioned as a past king [*āśit*]. In the reign of Jayadeva II, the Thākurīs alone come to possess the whole kingdom solely. We do not find any trace in inscriptions or in the Varṇśāvalīs of any successor of Vasanta-deva II in the Lichchhavi line.

The mysterious reason for omitting 11 Lichchhavi kings between Jayadeva I and Vṛishadeva is the well-established Hindu historical custom (as in the Purāṇas) to omit names of kings in a dynasty when they cease to be independent. The Guptas exercised dominion over Nepal from Samudra Gupta downwards. Hence we find only Jayadeva I mentioned, who according to the chronology set out above and

calculated also by Fleet, flourished in the time of Samudra Gupta. For the time of Samudra Gupta we have his Allahabad inscription proving that Nepal was one of the tributary states in the class which were in close touch with the Imperial Government, paying regular tribute (*kara*). There is nothing to indicate that there happened any change in that condition under Chandragupta II and his immediate imperial successors. Either in the reign of Kumāragupta I or Skandagupta, we find Haradatta establishing Vaishnavism in Nepal and actually copying Gupta architecture. His pillar of Garuḍa has the exact formula of Gupta pillars<sup>1</sup> and the Garuḍa is a copy of the Guptan Garuḍa<sup>2</sup>—a human figure with wigs,—which implies that Haradattadeva was owning the imperial Gupta suzerainty. When the Gupta Empire breaks up on account of the rise of the empire of the Maukharis (c. 550 A.D.—570 A.D.) we find Mānadeva I (576 A.D.) striking his own coin in Nepal. But this attempt was short-lived, for we

<sup>1</sup> See description in IA, IX. 163. "Its lower half is square, half of the upper part is octagonal, higher up it becomes sixteen-cornered, and finally round." It is about 20 ft. high.

An inscription was inscribed on it later by Mānadeva III, while the pillar stood. It has no reference to the pillar itself. The shrine existed before Arṣuvarmā who made a provision for it in his Harigaon writ of year 32 (Lévi, iii. 94, line 7; the original name was *Dolaśikharasvāmin*, the hill being called *dola*, 'swing').

I found fragments of Gupta sculptures there and have brought one piece to the Patna Museum.

For Gupta writing of the fourth and fifth centuries in Nepal, see Bendall's *Journey*, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> That is the Garudamadaka.

find the Nepal Guptas asserting sovereignty in the last quarter of the 6th century—an assertion which lasted down to the time of Sivadeva I and Arñśuvarman.

Out of this list these names mark changes in the religious history of Nepal :

Haridatta (deva)—about 450 A.D., like the Imperial Guptas in the plains made Vaishnavism the royal cult of Nepal.

Mānadeva I to Vṛishadeva—Buddhism reigned supreme after the Imperial Gupta influence, disappeared in the reign of Mānadeva I (576 A.D.). Coming after the Saiva Arñśuvarman who patronised Buddhism merely as a ruler, Vṛishadeva about 660 A.D. made Buddhism again popular (*Sugatasāsana-pakshapāti*, I.A., IX. 178). But his son Saṅkaradeva, about 680 A.D., is regarded as a second Saṅkarāchārya for having revived Saivism at the cost of Buddhism. He has left his monuments at Paśupati and is universally credited by the Buddhists to have abolished monasticism in Nepal Buddhism (Mahāyāna), forcing every *Bhikshu* to lead married life. There have been no wifeless Bhikshus in Nepal ever since; the vihāras are occupied by married Buddhist priests.

After Saṅkaradeva the Lichchhavis remain markedly Saiva and Vaishnavite.

The greatest figure in the period is Dharmadeva. His son Mānadeva III, who in the very year of his accession (705 A.D.) marched against the Mallas, to meet whom since the time of Sivadeva I (yr. 320, Lévi, iii, 69, 107) there had been a

*Malla-kara* impost in Nepal, records that his father had set up four Pillars of Victory. The reason for this we get from Tibetan History as recorded by the Chinese (translated in JRAS, 1880; 438, 456). The king of Nepal snapped the Tibetan suzerainty brought over Nepal by Narendra deva (643-657 A.D.). He gave battle to the Tibetan king (Ch'inush silung) and killed him (705 A.D.).

We find Sivadeva II employing imperial title in his inscription of 714 A.D., which means that Mānadeva III in his later years was reduced to the position of a *rājan* (as in his inscriptions), the real power passing to the Thākuri line. It was during the minority of Sivadeva II that Vṛishadeva, Saṅkaradeva and Dharmadeva revived the Lichchhavi line and its prestige.

## VI—DATA OF THE MANJUSRI HISTORY ON NEPAL

On the history of Nepal we have a valuable source in the *Mañjuśrī-mūla-kalpa* in its book on Indian History. The text, edited with the help of the Tibetan translation [my *Mañjuśrī Imperial History*, § 12, p. 40] is as follows :

भविष्यति तदा काले उत्तरां दिशिमाश्रुतः ।  
नेपालमण्डले ख्याते हिमाद्रे: कुक्षिमाश्रिते ॥५४९॥  
 राजा मानवेन्द्रस्तु लिच्छवीनां कुलोद्भवः ।  
 सोऽपि मन्त्रार्थ-सिद्धस्तु महाभोगी भविष्यति ॥५५०॥  
 विद्या भोगवती नाम तस्य सिद्धा नराधिपे ।  
 अशीतिवर्षाणि कृत्वासौ राज्यं तस्करवर्जितम् ॥५५१॥  
 ततः प्राणात्थये नृपतौ स्वर्गलोके जजग्मसु ।  
 तत्र मन्त्राशु सिद्धधन्ति शीतला शान्तिकपौष्टिका ॥५५२॥

तारा च लोकविद्याता देवी पण्डरवासिनी ।  
 महाक्षेत्रा परहितोद्युक्ता अखिभ्रमनसां सदा ॥५५३॥  
 इत्येवमादयो प्रोक्ता बहुधा नपतयोस्तदा ।  
 अनेकधा बहुधाइचैव नानारूपविवर्णिताः ॥५५४॥  
 शास्त्रपूजकास्तेऽपि म्लेच्छराजान् है ।

T.453 b. विष्णुः सुवृष्टश्चैव भावसु शुभसुस्तथा ॥५५५॥  
 भाक्रमः पदक्रमश्चैव कमलश्चैव कीर्त्यते ।  
भागुप्तः वस्तकश्चैव (भास्त्राश्चैव) पदिच्चमः ॥५५६॥

### [§ 12 b. Fall of Nepal]

G.६२२ उदयः जिहनुनो ह्यन्ते म्लेच्छानां विविधास्तथा ।  
अम्भोधेः भ्रष्टमर्यादा बहिःप्राज्ञोपभोजिनः ॥५५७॥  
 शस्त्रसम्प्रातविधवस्ता नेपालाधिपतिस्तदा ।  
विद्यालुप्ता लुप्तराजानो म्लेच्छतस्करसेविनः ॥५५८॥

५४९. देववन् (लह-लद्दन्) । ५५०. मानवदेवस्तु । ५५४. नूपतयस्तदा ।  
 ५५५. हिमवद्वासिनः । वृषः । भूभासः सुभूभासस्तथा । ५५६. पराक्रमः  
 (फ-रोल-ग्नोद-जिद्) । भूपुष्टः (स-सुङ्ग=भूपालः) । ५५७. ढङ्ग-छुल्  
 (शीली, जिष्णुः) । ततः परं (दे-डोग्) । परपुरुषोपसेविनः (फिथ-रोल-  
 सक्ये दगुप्त-ज्ञो-वर्-सप्योद) । ५५८. विलुप्तास्तत्र राजानो । ५५९.  
 देव-द्विज-प्रियाः ।

### [§ 12 c. Revival of Nepal]

अनेका भूपतयो प्रोक्ता नाना चैव द्विजप्रिया ।  
 भविष्यन्ति तदा काले चीनं प्राप्य समन्ततः ॥५५९॥

The Mañjuśrī History (§ 12, text, p. 40) says :

(i) At that time in the North, in Nepāla-maṇḍala, in the valley of the Himālaya, there will be king *Māna-vendra* (read *Māna-deva*) born of the dynasty of the Lichchhavis. He would be very prosperous (*mahābbogī*)—the Vidyā Bhoga vati will be established in that king. For eighty years he ruled and made the country free from robbers (549-551) (*Here follow the names of certain goddesses (552-53).*

- (2) Then there will be various (*bahudhā*) kings (*dynasties*) several and various (*anekadhā* and *bahudhā*), of various castes (? *nānā-rūpa-vivarṇitāḥ*)—they will be all Buddhists, and foreigners (*mlechha-rājānāḥ*; Tibetan : Himālayan races or residents).
- (3) *Vṛisha*; *Suvrisha*; *Bhāvasu* (T.—*Bhūbhāsa*); *Subhasu* (T.—*Subbhūbhāsa*); *Bhākrama* (T.—*Parākrama*); *Kamala*; *Bhāgupta* (T.—*Bhūgupta*); *Vatsaka*; [*Aṁśuvarman*, T.—*Bhāsvān*] the Western (535-56).
- (4) *Udaya* and *Jishṇu* in the end. After that (Tibetan—*tataḥ param*) there arose several kings under the Mlechchhas who broke all rules (*bṛaṣṭa-maryādā*) and were dependants of outsiders (T.) (557).
- (5) Then the overlord of Nepal (*Nepalādbipatiḥ*) was defeated and killed in battle (by arms); the kings who had lost Vidyās, servants of the Mlechchha robbers, disappeared. There will be several kings, lovers of (Hindu) Gods and Brahmins, having China (Tibet) on their frontier (558-559).

The above data are highly important, as they give a tale different from the Varṇśāvalis, and in accord with Chinese history and inscriptions. Section (1) gives the successful rule of Mānadeva I. His goddess *Bhogavatī* is undoubtedly the *Sri-Bhoginī* on the *Mānānika* coin. Section (2) mentions various contemporary dynasties which rose to power in Nepal after Mānadeva I. One of them is headed and represented by *Vṛisha* in whom we may recognize the Lichchhavi *Vṛishadeva*. *Bhāvasu*, *Subhasu*, *Bhākrama* and *Kamala* seems to represent some Kirāta family, while *Bhūgupta* corresponds to the Varṇśāvali *Bhūmigupta*, the last of the ‘Aheer Guptas’, who was defeated by Sivadeva I or Aṁśuvarman whom Sivadeva I credits with victories on his

enemies. *Vatsaka* is unrecorded otherwise, but seems to be connected with *Bhugupta*. Another contemporary is *Amśuvarmān* (of the West) whose name is lost in the Sanskrit text but is supplied from the Tibetan translation. We find *Amśuvarmān* in his inscriptions ruling over the Government (*adbikaranya*) of the West. It seems that apart from the Guptas there arose at least one more local family to power, and the kingdom after *Mānadeva I* was sorely torn to pieces, and that it was reunited by *Amśuvarmān* under *Sivadeva*. *Amśuvarmān* set up the government of the West with full powers of sovereignty. *Vṛishadeva* and *Amśuvarmān* are treated as contemporaries.

(4) *Udaya* and *Jishnu* (Gupta) are placed at the end of this list and noted to have been the last independent sovereigns of Nepal. After *Jishnu* the country passed under the domination of the *Mlechchhas*, i.e. the Tibetans, until the overlord of Nepal, that is, the Tibetan king, was killed in battle. Then followed Brahmanical kings—a description fully true of the kings from *Dharma* *deva* to *Vasantā* [*sena*], *Sivadeva II* and *Jayadeva II*. The defeat and killing of the Tibetan overlord (705 A.D.) is borne out by Chinese History (JRAS, 1880, 438; V. Smith, EH., 381).

#### Who was *Vatsaka*?

We have seen that the two Gupta lists in the *Varmśāvalīs* really constitute one series.<sup>1</sup> The first

<sup>1</sup> See section VII of this study.

list is from Jaya Gupta I to Jaya Gupta II—8 rulers (Lévi, II, 72; IA, VII. 89). Jaya Gupta II settled down, according to Kirkpatrick's *Vamśāvalī*, near Janakpur (Tarai). His name is omitted in the Nepal list by other *Vamśāvalis*, where Y a k s h a G u p t a is the last Nepal Gupta. We find base gold and copper coins of Jaya Gupta II (in characters of circa 600 A. D.), and a mould to forge his gold coins has been discovered in Nālandā excavations this year. This verifies the truth of the *Vamśāvalī* datum about the Gupta dynasty of Nepal. The *Vamśāvalis* have the following kings in the two lists:—

(Bhagwanlal, Wright, Lévi)

(Kirkpatrick)

[within the Lichchhavi list]

*Bhimadeva* *Bhimadeva* (displaced by  
Aheers, IA,  
VII. 90)

## *Vishṇudeva*      *Vishṇu Gupta*

which corresponds with the Gupta list

5. *Bhīma Gupta*
6. *Mati* (or, *Maṇi*) *Gupta*
7. *Vishṇu Gupta*

It seems that up to B h i m a G u p t a there was one line of the Guptas who were displaced by the other line beginning with V i s h n u G u p t a. M a t i - G u p t a or M a n i G u p t a was a prince of the displaced line.

Kirkpatrick's Varṇśāvalī gives two more names after Vishnu Gupta

Kisnu Gupta

Bhūmi Gupta

These names are not found in the other *Varmśāvalīs*, probably *Kishnu Gupta* is a misreading and duplication of *Vishṇu Gupta*, but *Bhūmi Gupta* is supported by the *Mañjuśrī History* which has

*Bhū Gupta*

*Vatsaka*

In the other list the *Varmśāvalīs* after *Vishṇu Gupta* have

*Yaksha Gupta*

It seems that after *Vishṇu Gupta* there were probably two branches:

|                     |  |                    |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| <i>Vishṇu Gupta</i> |  |                    |
| <i>Yaksha Gupta</i> |  | <i>Bhūmi Gupta</i> |

That is, *Yaksha Gupta* of the *Varmśāvalīs* would correspond with the *Vatsaka* of the *Mañjuśrīmūla kalpa*. *Vatsaka* seems to be a nickname.

Now we are helped here by Nepal coins on the identification of *Yaksha Gupta*. We know from the description of Nepal coinage in the Chinese History that in 643 A.D. the Chinese noticed the coin which agrees exclusively with the coin of *Vaiśravaṇa*—‘man on one side, and bull on the other.’<sup>1</sup> This coin therefore must belong to a king who flourished before 643 A.D. He thus would be either a contemporary or a predecessor of *Amśuvarman*. There is no doubt that *Amśuvarman* imitates this coin by adopting *Kāmadobi*<sup>2</sup> (*Kāmadhenu*) with the calf at udders on his

<sup>1</sup> See below sec. VIII. The reading on the *Vaiśravaṇa* coin is *Vaiśravaṇab*—see plate I. 4 of Mr. Walsh, JRAS, 1908, 669.

<sup>2</sup> Not *Kāmadebī*, as formerly read. The corrected reading is by the Rājaguru Pt. Hemarāja Sarmā. *Kāmadobī* = Skt. *Kāma-*

coin. The coin must therefore belong either to Sivadeva I or some other contemporary. The legend on the coin *Vaiśravaṇaḥ* suggests that it was struck by Y a k s h a G u p t a. ‘*Vaiśravaṇa*’ may very well stand as rebus, as *Vaiśravaṇa* is the king of the Yakshas. His nickname *Vatsaka* ('little calf') probably originated from his representation on the coin as the little calf attached to the Kāmadhenu. It is also possible that he had a second official name as *Vaiśravana*.

The Gupta list would stand thus—

### NEPAL

|         |               |                     |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|
| 5       | Bhīma Gupta   | c. 575 A. D.        |
| 7       | Vishṇu Gupta  | c. 600 A. D.        |
| 8       | Bhūmi Gupta   | c. 625 A. D.        |
| 8a      | Yaksha Gupta  | c. 625 A. D.        |
| [Tarāī] |               |                     |
| 8b      | Jaya Gupta II | c. 625 or 640 A. D. |

### VII—THE GUPTA DYNASTIES OF NEPAL

There are two Gupta Dynasties noted in Nepal histories, and both are confirmed by coins and other evidence. The coins establish their connexion with the Imperial Guptas.

All the Varmśāvalīs state that the history of Nepal begins with the ‘*Gupta Dynasty*’ who were of the Goālā caste [Sanskritised in some as *gopālā*]<sup>1</sup>.

*dbuk*. It represents the country [of Nepal]—cf. the political maxim :

राजन् दुधुक्षसि यदि क्षितिधेनुमेनां तेनाद्य वत्समिव लोकममुं पुषाण ।

<sup>1</sup> Wright's *History of Nepal*, 107-109; Bhagwanlal Indraji, XIII, IA, 411-12; Lévi, *Nepal*, ii. 72, 74; Cf. Kirkpatrick,

This dynasty which is specifically given the name of the Gupta Dynasty, consists of eight names and its first name is lost which is replaced by a phrase *bbukta-mānagata* meaning ‘the elapsed years of the reign.’ After this dynasty the Vamśāvalīs introduce a dynasty of three names and call them the Aheers (Ahīrs) ‘from the plains of Hindustan.’ The oldest authority, namely the one cited by Kirkpatrick in 1793 A. D., definitely says that they were Rajpūt descendants from *Mahīpa Gopāla* (King Cowherd), that they levied their army in the country situated between Simraongarh and Janakpur (Tarai) and entered and subjugated Nepal. This authority therefore states that the so-called Ahīrs were only a branch of the dynasty which Kirkpatrick has left unnamed and which is officially designated as the *Gupta Dynasty* in the Vamśāvalīs. There is thus no distinction historically between the Goālās and Ahīrs, as there is none between the two terms—*Goālā* and *Abīr*. The descendants of these so-called Ahīrs are once more given in the Lichchhavi list above Sivadeva I and Amśuvarmān, by whom they were finally driven out of Nepal. There are therefore practically two lists of these Guptas (the Goālā-Ahīrs). Their chronology may be calculated back from the known date of Arīśuvarman and Sivadeva I. When the Nepal histories say that the Gupta-Ahīr line was broken by the Kirātas it should be taken to refer to a Kirāta revival three generations above Arīśuvarman. The introduction into the Gupta-Ahīr-Amśuvarman

*Historical Sketch of Nepal* in his *Account of the Kingdom of Nepal* (1811), 255-257.

chronology, of the long line of the Kirātas who flourished before and after Aśoka is a result of confusion. The two Kirāta lines—(1) the pre-Christ Kirātas and (2) the pre-Amśuvarman Kirātas—have been mixed up together. Nepal History should have and would have begun with the Kirāta Dynasty and not with the Guptas but for that confusion. The Kirātas who intervene just before the line of Amśuvarman are called “Yellung Kirāta” in Kirkpatrick and *Ya-lamīva* in Lévi’s edition<sup>1</sup> which is treated as the proper name of the first king. *Ya-lamīva* is most likely the ethnic name *Limbu*, a well-known division of the Kirātas still on the eastern frontiers of Nepal. The next name *Pavi* of the Vaniśāvalī is noted in the Mañjuśrī History (p. 40, text)<sup>2</sup> as *Vavi-sha*, placed between Mānadeva I and Viśhā (dēva), as a Himālayan Mlechchha and Buddhist by religion.

The Gupta lists and their chronology should be arranged as follows :

(A)

1. Jaya Gupta I
2. Parama Gupta
3. Harsha Gupta
4. Bhīma Gupta
5. Mati [or Maṇi] Gupta
6. Viśhṇu Gupta
7. Yaksha Gupta

Jaya Gupta II [K.]

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, ii. 78, corresponding to *Ya-Lambasa* of Wright.

<sup>2</sup> See extract in § VI above.

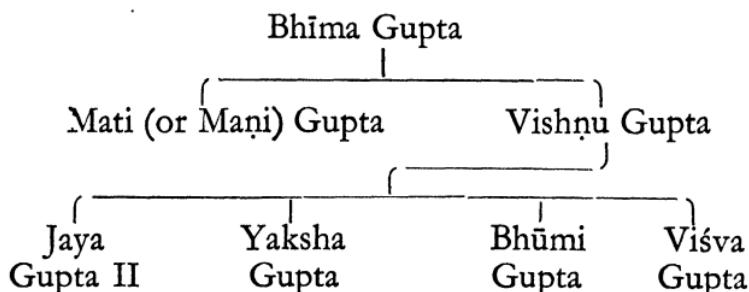
(B) *Branch of the above*

1. Vara-simha
2. Jaya-Mati simha [Jaya-Simha K.]
3. Bhowany (K.) or  
    Bhuvana-simha.

(C) *Their descendants, mentioned in the Lichchhavi list<sup>1</sup>*

1. Bhīma (deva)
2. [Vishṇu Gupta (K.); *Vishṇu deva*-others]  
    [Kishno Gupta (only in K.)]
3. Viśva Gupta (L.) (*Viśva deva*-others; father-in-law  
    of Aṁsuvarman)
4. Bhūmi Gupta (only in K.) but confirmed by  
    Mañjuśrī History, which gives Bhū Gupta as a  
    contemporary of Aṁsuvarman

It seems that from *Bhīma Gupta* (A, no. 4; C, 1) lines branched off. No. 6 of A corresponds with no. 2 of C; and no. 5 of A corresponds with no. 2 of B.



The dates assignable to the Gupta dynasty of Nepal, composed of section A and C, would be :

<sup>1</sup> Bhagwanlal Indraji, XIII, IA, 412, ii. Lévi 74, Wright, 109, Kirkpatrick, 256.

<sup>1</sup> 13 IA 413; 2 Lévi 122; Wright, 130; Kirkpatrick, 260-61.

|                 |                    |                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jayagupta I     | <i>c.</i> 500 A.D. |                                                                                                                           |
| Parama Gupta    | <i>c.</i> 525 A.D. |                                                                                                                           |
| Harsha Gupta,   | <i>c.</i> 550 A.D. |                                                                                                                           |
| Bhīma Gupta     | <i>c.</i> 575 A.D. | dispossessed by the Lichchhavis [probably by Mānadeva I who succeeded in 576 A.D.]                                        |
| Vishṇu Gupta    | <i>c.</i> 600 A.D. | He actually reigned in the valley; his endowment <i>Vishṇu-nātha</i> still exists 8 miles north of Kathmandu <sup>1</sup> |
| Jaya Gupta II } |                    |                                                                                                                           |
| Yaksha Gupta }  |                    |                                                                                                                           |
| Viśva Gupta }   |                    |                                                                                                                           |
| Bhūmi Gupta }   |                    |                                                                                                                           |
|                 | <i>c.</i> 625 A.D. | the time of the conquest of Amśuvarman under Sivadeva I who is noted to have expelled them                                |

As to the position of Section B, it is certain that they had their seat in the Tarai. There being no room for them from 500 A.D. to 600 A.D.—they, —another branch of the same family—the *Mahipāla gopāla* i.e. the ‘Imperial Guptas’—must come after Jaya Gupta II, when the family was dispossessed in Nepal, in other words, after 625 A.D.

### VIII—COINAGE

#### *Coinage of Nepal Guptas*

This is confirmed by the gold coins of Varasimha which have been assigned to the seventh century, Allan opining that they ‘cannot be before the

<sup>1</sup> Kirkpatrick, 191.

seventh century; nothing is known of their attribution.<sup>1</sup> The coins are illustrated in V. Smith's Catalogue of the Indian Museum, pl. xvi. 14. and Allan's Gupta Coins (British Museum) pl. xxiv. 11. The legend is read doubtfully by Rapson as "*Vira [-sena or simha]*".<sup>2</sup> It has "*Kramādityab*" on the reverse. On the obverse there is a cow in the style of the Kāmadhenu of the Nepal coins of Vaiśravaṇa and Aṁśuvarman. Dr. V. Smith could not decide between "bull? or cow,"<sup>2</sup> an uncertainty which will be caused to everyone who would be introduced first to the Nepal Kāmadohi. The name is *sri Vara [simha]*. Although certainly related to the Imperial Gupta coinage, the coin of Varasimha, has the weight not of the Gupta system but of Nepal coins, the weight of the three gold coins of Varasimha being 162.3, 162.5, and 169 grs. which as Smith says is 'abnormal' and 'not easy to explain' (p. 98). It is explainable only on the weight system of Nepal which we find there in vogue in the coinage of Vaiśravaṇa and Aṁśuvarman (Cunningham, CAI., xiii, 3, wt. 172; xiii, 6, wt. 169 grs.).

Varasimha in dispossessing Jayā Gupta II must be taken to have dispossessed him in the Tarai. Only three coins of Varasimha have been found up to this time, and one of them was obtained by Col. Rivett-Carnak at Benares. His coins should be looked for in Champaran. We know now about Jayā Gupta II's coins that they were current

<sup>1</sup> JRAS, 1900, 131.

<sup>2</sup> p. 122.

near Magadha, as a mould to forge his gold coin has been just discovered (dug out) at Nālandā.<sup>1</sup> His principality must have been near Nālandā wherefrom the coin could be passed into the territory of its circulation or it could be discounted even in Magadha as that of a recognized feudatory. J a y a G u p t a 's coins are the most debased gold coins of the whole of the Gupta series, having only  $\frac{1}{3}$  gold, which shows that he was in terrible financial straits. We have both his copper and gold coins. His title on his coins is *Prakāñdayaśāḥ*. His copper coins have the Imperial Garuḍa, proving that he belonged to the Imperial Gupta family. His coins have been assigned by V. Smith to c. 600 A.D.<sup>2</sup>

### VIII.—LICHCHHAVI COINAGE

It seems that on the weakness of the Gupta imperial organization [c. 500 A.D.] a branch from Magadha or North Bihar entered into Nepal and took direct possession of Nepal. The Lichchhavis then naturally became direct subordinates to the local Guptas. About 576 A.D. Mānadeva I reasserted the independence of the Lichchhavi dynasty and struck his coins. He was followed by Guṇadeva (or Guṇa-kāma-deva) of the Guṇāṅka coins. They are a twin system of [Mānāṅka-Guṇāṅka] coinage. The names Mānadeva and Guṇa-

<sup>1</sup> This was brought to me by Mr. G. C. Chandra, Supdt. A.S., C.C. to be deciphered. This is exactly of the type illustrated by Cunningham in CMI, pl. II. 3. The mould is made from a coin.

<sup>2</sup> V. Smith, CIM, p. 121; Cunningham, CMI, pl. II, 3; Allan, 153.

kāma-deva were transferred from between Vasantadeva I and Sivadeva I to a position below Vasantadeva II and above Sivadeva II in the Lichchhavi list. The confusion was caused by the appearance of Mānadeva II (contemporary and sovereign of Jishṇu-Gupta) there between Vasantadeva-Udayadeva and Sivadeva II. This led to the transposition of Mānadeva I and Guṇakāmadeva as nos. 25 and 26 of the Lichchhavi list from their original position between nos. 15 (Vasantadeva I) and 16 (Sivadeva I).<sup>1</sup>

On the evidence of coins there seems to be an assertion by the Lichchhavis in the time of Mānadeva I who coins his money. Now the Mañjuśri Imperial History supplies the numismatic identification of the female figure on the coins of this king: *Sri-Bhoginī*. It says that the Vidyā worshipped by Mānadeva (who lived before Viśhadeva) was *Bhogavatī*. Mañjuśri's Imperial History begins the Lichchhavi line with him, for he was the first to become independent of the Imperial Guptas. The coin of Guṇa follows immediately Mānadeva's coin. But we gather from the coin of Vaiśravaṇa that the family had again a set-back. There is no room for this last coin after Aṁśavarman and the coin of Aṁśavarman and that of Vaiśravana are so connected that one must follow the other. The design of *Kāmadobī* (the reading as corrected from *Kāmadebī* by the Rājaguru Pandit Hema-

<sup>1</sup> 13 IA, 412.

rāja Sarmā) appears on these two coins only. Amśuvarman's successor Jishnu Gupta abandons it, and the *Paśupati* series which follows Jishnu Gupta<sup>1</sup> abandons it. If it came after the Paśupati series—its date would be c. 800 A.D. which will be too late for the script of the Vaiśravaṇa coin. The coin should therefore come before Amśuvarman and after Mānāṅka and Guṇāṅka coins, where it has been already placed by numismatists (see Cunningham, C. A. I. 116). But as there is no name in the Lichchhavi list to whom it can be assigned, it has remained unassigned. We may take it to belong to 'the revived (Ahīr) Gupta dynasty,' where it can belong either to Yaksha Gupta or Bhūmi Gupta. 'Yaksha' corresponds to 'Vaiśravaṇa,' the king of the Yakshas. The legend acts as the rebus, if not the actual regnal name of the king. It may be safely presumed that the line of Viśhadēva, Saṅkara dēva, Dharmadēva, etc.—strikes the Paśupati coins under the new Saiva influence, in the name of their Deity, *Paśupati*, with changing symbols—the Trident probably signifying the reign of Saṅkara dēva who dedicated the large trident noted in Nepal history and come down to our time. His son is accredited to have donated the copper *Nandi* at Paśupati. The Sun symbol on the Paśupati series denotes the Sūryavamśa of the Lichchhavis. The Paśupati coinage has 'six distinct types'<sup>1</sup> and from Viśhadēva to Vasanta-dēva we have 6 kings.

<sup>1</sup> E. H. Walsh, J.R.A.S., 1908, 681.

In weight the Vaiśravaṇa coin does not belong to the series of Paśupati, but to that of Mānāṅka, Guṇāṅka and Arīśuvarman. The Paśupati series is subsequent to Vaiśravana.<sup>1</sup>

### *Chinese History on Nepal Coinage*

The Chinese have described the coinage of Nepal about 643-651 A. D. Wang-Hiuen-t'se, in his description<sup>2</sup> of the kingdom of Nepal under king Nāren-dra dēva, relates that Nepal "has copper money which bears on one side the figure of a man and on the reverse a horse." In the other edition of the Thang history (called *The New History*), the description of the money is "on one side it bears the figure of a man and the reverse a horse and a bull, and has no hole in the middle" (that is, unlike Chinese coins).

This description is only applicable to the following coins:

(i) Coin of *Vaiśravaṇa* (Cunningham, C.A.I., pl. XIII, 3; Walsh, JRAS, 1908, p. 669, pl. I. 4). Here there is on the obverse what Cunningham describes—"The types [of Nepal coins] are few in number. The principal type shows the king seated on a throne holding a flower in his right hand" (p. 114) also further—"Deity or Raja, seated to front" (p. 116). The reverse has a cow (not bull). The very small calf is mostly very indistinct—e.g. on the coin illustrated by Mr. Walsh where letters and other features of the coin are all clear but the calf is difficult to distinguish. The cow

<sup>1</sup> E. H. Walsh, J.R.A.S., 1908, 681.

<sup>2</sup> Preserved in the History of the Thang Dynasty; J. A., 1894, 66. The passage has been translated several times. See Lévi's citation, *Nepal*, i. 163-64; n2 at p. 164.

is so drawn that by a man in the street it may be taken as a bull.

(2) Coin of Mānadeva I (*Mānāṅka*) where the figure of the goddess *Bhoginī* may well be mistaken for that of a man (see Mr. Walsh's plate, fig. 1). The griffin on the reverse has the perfect appearance of a horse.

(3) Amśuvarman's series having on one side the cow [which can be mistaken for a bull] and on the other the 'horse' (really griffin) (CAI, xiii. 4; Walsh, I. 5) is the only other nearest approach, but probably it has to be ruled out for not having any human figure. Jishṇu Gupta's coin has similarly to go out, because it has the griffin on one side but no human figure or the cow on the other side but *vajra* in a decorative style.

Hence the Chinese party who saw Nepalese copper coins in 643 to 651 A.D. based their description on the coins of Mānadeva I, Vaiśravaṇa, and also possibly of Amśuvarman ('New History': 'horse and bull'). It seems that *Mānāṅka*, *Vaiśravaṇa* and Amśuvarman's coins had been largely minted and they mainly supplied the needs of currency up to c. 650 A. D.

The value of copper in the Madhyadeśa (*Madhes* of the present-day Nepalese) was  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of silver, but probably in Nepal it was still more dear. Jishṇu-Gupta's inscription at Thankot<sup>1</sup> calculates all

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, *Nepal*, iii. 104 (lines 23-25, p. 107 : kare cha yena kārshāpaṇan deyan tenāshṭau paṇā deyā yenāushṭau paṇā deyam tena paṇa-chatushṭayam Malla-kare cha paṇa-chatushṭayam deyam).

taxes in Kārshāpanas, which confirms the Chinese testimony of a copper currency. So does also the fact that we have found no silver coin of the period in Nepal. But Amśuvarman's inscription of the year 30,<sup>1</sup> mentions both *pu*. (i.e. *purāṇa* = silver punch-marked pieces) and *pa*. i.e., *pāṇa*. It is possible that the reference is only for the purposes of calculation into Kārshāpanas. In any case silver was rare in Nepal.<sup>2</sup>

On the vexed question of the date of Nepal coins, the Chinese description is evidence of that the age of the Mānāṅka and Vaiśravāṇa coins cannot be later than 643 A. D. and that Paśupati coins had not come on the scene yet and that they have to be dated after 651 A. D.

It is not possible for the Mānāṅka coin to belong to Mānadeva II, contemporary of Jishnu Gupta, as he ruled for a year or so, and could not leave so numerous a series, nor of course can it belong to Mānadeva III [of the Changu Narayan inscription] who came half a century later.

[On the absence of Nepal coinage between c. 800 to 1300 A. D., the discussion is to be found in this thesis in § XII].

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, *ibid*, p. 93 (Harigaon insc.).

<sup>2</sup> The T'ang History mentions silver in Tibet in the same period. See Bushell's translation, JRAS, 1880, p. 442—"They have abundance of gold, silver, copper and tin."

## IX—DYNASTIC REVOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF AMSUVARMAN

### *The Line of Udayadeva*

The line of *Udayadeva* is a puzzle. It is given both in the inscription of Jayadeva II, great grandson of *Udayadeva*, as if it belongs to the Lichchhavis. It is given in the *Vamśavalīs* as the concluding portion of the Lichchhavis line. The puzzle is solved by Chinese datum to be discussed below and the Thankot inscription of *Jishṇu Gupta* mentioning a *Mānadeva*, not as 'the banner of the Lichchhavi dynasty' the usual dynastic description, but as 'the banner of the dynasty seated on the throne' (*singhāsanādhyāsi-kula-ketu*).<sup>1</sup> It is necessary to remember throughout these discussions that according to one view—e.g. Lévi's—*Amśuvaraman* married the daughter of *Sivadeva* (the name *Viśva* supposed to be a corruption of *Siva*), and according to the other as noted in a *Vamśavalī* in possession of the *Bādā Kāzi* of Nepal (cited in Landon, ii, 315) *Amśuvaraman* was adopted by *Sivadeva* as a son, who was some sort of a nephew to him. The inscriptions do not however show that *Sivadeva* treated *Amśuvaraman* as his son, but this by itself is not sufficient. The name ending-*deva* in the name of *Udaya-deva*, who was in every event the immediate successor of *Amśuvaraman*'s admitted descendants did adopt the *deva*-ending.

<sup>1</sup> Lévi, iii. 107.

What happened on the death of Amśuvaraman we gather from an unexpected quarter—Chinese history of the T'ang Dynasty. According to the inscription of Jayadeva II, King Udayadeva's son was Narendra deva.<sup>1</sup> About this Narendra deva there is a volume of information in the Chinese history. His dress, his palace [Kailasakūṭa], the coinage current in his time, and his international status are all described in detail. That account says that the father of the king Na-ling-ti-po (*Narendra deva*), whom the Imperial Ambassador met in Nepal in 643 A.D., had been deposed by his (Narendra deva's) uncle, the younger brother of his father; whereupon Narendra deva sought the help of the Tibetan king (Strong-tsang-Gampo) who restored him to the throne of Nepal and made him his vassal. In 651 A.D. Śrī Narendra (*Chi-li-Na-lien-to-lo*) sent a mission to the Chinese Emperor. This was a year later than the death of Strong-tsang-Gampo. Narendra deva was still ruling in 657 A.D. when a Chinese ambassador passed through Nepal<sup>2</sup>.

We thus get the definite news that Udayadeva, father of Narendra deva was deposed by his younger brother who became king. Naturally the name of this collateral and usurper is not to be

<sup>1</sup> The reading and interpretation of Bhagwanlal Indraji (I.A., IX, 178) has been corrected by Fleet (G. I., I., 187) which correction I have verified in Nepal. The learned Rājā-Guru Pt. Hemarāja Sārmā who has gone deep into the matter is of the opinion that it is not possible to maintain the reading *trayodasa* of Dr. Bhagwanlal Indraji.

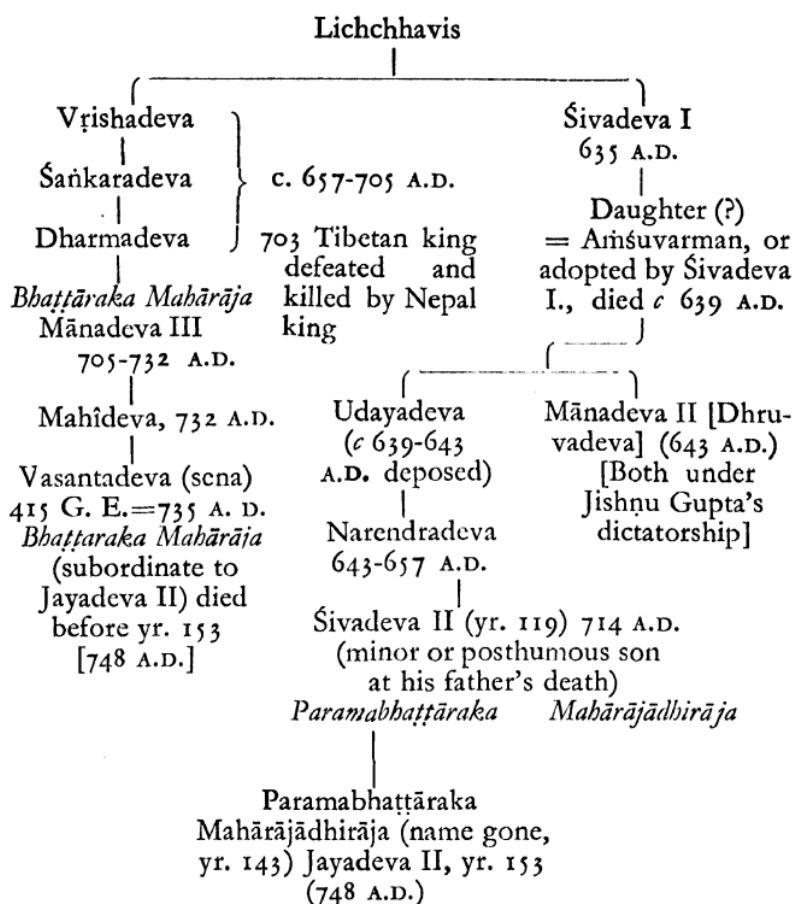
<sup>2</sup> J.A., 1894, 63ff; 1900, 302.

found in the genealogy given by the grandson of Narendradeva, *Jayadeva* II. But we know his name from the inscriptions of *Jishṇu Gupta* who, three or four years after the last inscription of *Amśavarman* (dated 40 + 4 or 5), was ruling from the *Kailāsakūṭa* Palace of *Amśavarman* as the Viceroy of *Dhruvadeva* who was residing at *Mānagṛihā*, the palace of the Lichchhavi kings. Before that time *Jishṇu Gupta* ruled also as the viceroy of *Mānadeva* (who should be called *Mānadeva* II as opposed to the later *Mānadeva*, great-grandson of *Vṛishadeva*, who should be called *Mānadeva* III). The date in the inscription at Thankot wherein *Mānadeva* II is king, is not distinct now<sup>1</sup> but it is not difficult to decide whether *Dhruvadeva* was the uncle of *Narendradeva*, or *Mānadeva* II who dispossessed his father. For *Dhruvadeva*'s date being the year 48 (= 643 A.D.) he must be the latter of the two, as *Narendradeva* had succeeded by 643 when he was on the throne. Then *Dhruvadeva* is specifically described as a Lichchhavi, while *Mānadeva* II is significantly described by a new appellation—‘the banner of the enthroned family’—i.e., the family of *Amśavarman* as opposed to that of the Lichchhavis. That also proves that *Amśavarman* had also assumed full sovereignty in his last year. This is also certain that in the short period between the year 44 of *Amśavarman*

<sup>1</sup> Lévi reads it doubtfully as 500? But I do not find this figure. On the other hand the date reads like 44, see plate XVII, last line (Lévi, iii)—See my enlarged reproduction herein.

and about 48, and before 643 A.D., Udayadeva was dethroned by Mānadeva II. The Vāṁśāvalīs correctly place *Mānadeva* between Udayadeva and Narendradeva (with the addition of one more name, *Guṇakāma-deva*, after *Mānadeva*, as a mistaken transposition from his place below *Mānadeva* I, for there is no room for *Guṇakāmadeva* here). Taking four years (the difference between Arīśuvarman's date 44 and of Jishṇu Gupta 48), Udayadeva at the earliest must have succeeded Arīśuvarman four years before Narendradeva, 643, i.e. *circa* 639 A.D., and latest in 642-643 A.D.

Now the line of Udayadeva when dated from Chinese data and inscriptions exhibits the ups and downs in the political position of the Lichchhavi-Thākuri line and the pure Lichchhavi line in the following manner:



Mānadeva II and Dhruvadeva both had their residence at Mānagrīha, hence there was no room for Vṛishadeva from c 639 to 643. Narendradeva was the king of the whole of Nepal in 643 and he was such a king up to 657 at least. Hence Vṛishadeva and his line rose to power after Narendradeva and during the minority of Šivadeva II, whose record we find 63 years later than his father's. During this interval Vṛishadeva, Sañkaradeva, Dharmadeva, and Mānadeva III succeeded.

Dharmadeva's position seems to have been great, he set up four Pillars of Victory according to the Changu Narayan inscription of his son Mānadeva III. This is confirmed by Chinese sources. The king of Nepal killed the Tibetan king in war in 703 A.D. or 705 A.D.<sup>1</sup>

Mānadeva in the beginning of his reign (386 G. E. = 705) carried war against the Mallas and reached the Gandak (North Bihar).<sup>2</sup> But in 732 his position is that he is merely described by a subordinate of his as *Srimānadeva-nripati* (I.A., IX. 167) while his contemporary Śivadeva II (119 = 714 A.D.) is styled with Imperial titles *Paramabhattāraka Mahārājādhīrāja* (I.A., IX. 174). And 24 years later, evidently in the reign of Jayadeva II the same imperial title still continued in the line, the family employing the Thākuri era, year 143, (I.A., IX, 176); while Vasantadeva (sena) in 415<sup>3</sup> G. E.=735 A.D. is only *Mahārāja* and a simple (not *parama*) *Bhattāraka*.

Vasantadeva must have been dead when Jayadeva II in the year 153=748 A.D. said about him '*āśit Vasantadevah*' (I.A, IX, 178).

The Mañjuśrī History correctly records the situation that after Udaya came Jishṇu

<sup>1</sup> In 703 A.D. according to E. H. Parker, Journal of Manchester Oriental Society, 1911, pp. 129-52, cited by V. Smith, EH., p. 381; 705 A.D. according to Dr. Bushell, JRAS, 1880, 438.

<sup>2</sup> See Changu Narayan inscription, lines recovered by Lévi (iii, 14).

<sup>3</sup> I.A., IX. 167. The figure is 415, not 435; cf. plates 3 and 2 for the figure 10 (I.A., IX), and chart of figures in Bendall's Cambridge Cat. and Bühler's chart for 30.

and that Jishnū was the last independent king of Nepal, that the kings after him became subordinate to the Mlechchhas (Tibetans), and that the overlord of Nepal (Tibetan king) having been killed by arms, there arose several kings, lovers of 'Devas' and 'Brāhmaṇas.' These latter were the Lichchhavis of the line of Vṛishadeva. Although Vṛishadeva was a patron of Buddhism, Saṅkara, Dharma, Mānadeva III and also probably Vasantadeva, and certainly Śivadeva II and Jayadeva II were distinctly Brāhmanical, devotees of Vishnū and Siva, to whom their dedicated monuments still survive.

There is no trace of any Tibetan overlordship after 703 A.D. which is a landmark in their international relation—a point entirely missed by Lévi. Their imperial titles of *Paramabhaṭṭāraka* and *Mahārājā-dhirāja* from 714 to 738 fully establishes their independent position.

The T'ang History, bks. 256—257, gives the contemporary history of Tibet, which has been translated by Dr. S. W. Bushell, physician to the British Legation at Peking, in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1880, p. 435ff. According to it, Strong-tsān-Gampo (Chinese—Ch'it-sung-lung-tsān) died in 650 and was succeeded by his grandson, aged 8, whose son Ch'inus-hsilung was killed in his expedition against Nepal and was succeeded by a minor son aged 7 in 705 A.D. It was not until 755-756 (two successions later) that the Tibetan king once more rose to military greatness by attacking China and taking her capital in 756 A.D. Between 740 and 769 A.D. Tibet

was defeated by Muktāpīda Lalitāditya of Kashmir.<sup>1</sup> Between 822 and 842 Tibet again goes down and a civil war ensues (842), and in 849 Tibet becomes a broken vassal of China. It becomes thus evident that in Dharmadeva's time (703) Tibet is defeated, and down to the time of Jayadeva II (748 A.D.) Nepal was absolutely her own master, there being weakness in Tibet up to 755.<sup>2</sup> C. 800 Nepal was strong enough to defeat the great Jayāpīda.

It is noteworthy that the family of Mānadeva II is not named by Jishnu Gupta at Thankot as the *Lichchhavi-kula-ketu*, but as *singhāsanādhyaśi-kula-ketu* (Lévi, iii, 105). This fully confirms the view that Udayadeva and his brother were not technically Lichchhavis, but Thākurīs. It should be noted however that Yuanchwang regards the kings before Amśavarman and after him (even including Amśavarman) as Lichchhavis. That is, in the Thākurī family the predominant element was the Lichchhavi affiliation.

The date of Narendra (643-657) definitely contributes to the ascertainment of the correct date for Amśavarman. He must have

<sup>1</sup> Mon. Lévi has not noticed the Nepalese victory over Tibet of the year 703 A.D. and has gratuitously held Nepal to have been subject to Tibet from the time of Śivadeva I and Amśavarman down to 880 A.D., while the Chinese historians themselves state the Indians states that used to approach China against Tibet ceased to do so at 760 A.D.—S. Julien, J.A. 1842. 2.

<sup>2</sup> V. Smith, EH., 386-87.

died not later than 643, or *minus* 4 or 3 years of Jishnu Gupta's rule, c 640 or 639 A.D.

It was in the time of Narendra Deva that Nepal for the first time became a vassal of Tibet, that is, about 643 A.D. This is definitely stated by the Chinese history. This happened as a result of Narendra Deva's seeking help of foreign intervention and not as a result of any military invasion. It was Narendra Deva who furnished 7000 cavalry to the Chinese ambassador along with the Tibetan force of 1200, to dislodge Arjuna or Arunāśva, and not Amśavarman as erroneously stated by Fleet.<sup>1</sup> Narendra Deva's name is specifically noted by the Chinese writers in this connection.

It is likely that the marriage of the alleged daughter of Amśavarman with Strongtsan-Gampo took place, if in 642 A.D. the agreed date, not in the lifetime of Amśavarman but after him and in the period when the Nepalese king was seeking the help of Tibet. If the lady was a sister of Udayadeva, she was the daughter of Amśavarman. If she was a sister of Narendra Deva, she was Udayadeva's daughter. The Tibetan word translated as *prabhavarman* may stand either for *Amśavarman* or *Udaya (deva) varman*. In the closing years (about the year 44) Amśavarman was *Mahārājādhīraja*. That title, the chronology, and the Chinese records are all against Amśavarman's having accepted the

<sup>1</sup> GI, I., 190.

suzerainty of Tibet. And so is also the express authority of the Mañjuśrī History which definitely dates the foreign domination of Nepal *after J i s h n u-Gupta.*

## X—ARCHITECTURE, EPIGRAPHY AND CONSTITUTION

*Chinese account of Nepal, 643-651 A.D.*

[**HISTORY OF THE THANG DYNASTY, c. 221<sup>1</sup>**]

*People, Currency, Arts, Sciences and Worship*

“The kingdom of Nepal is right to the west of Tibet. The inhabitants have the custom to shave their hair just to the level of the eye-brows. They pierce their ears and suspend therein tubes made of bamboo or horn of cattle. It is a mark of beauty to have ears hanging upto the shoulders. They eat with their hands without using spoons or sticks. All their utensils are made of copper. The merchants there, moving and stationary, are numerous; cultivators, rare. They have coins of copper which bear on one side a figure of man and on the reverse a horse [*New History:* They have coins of copper which bear on one side a figure of man and on the reverse a horse and a bull, and which have no hole in the middle]. They do not pierce the noses of their bulls. They clothe themselves with a single piece of cloth which envelopes the body. They bathe themselves several times a day. Their houses are constructed of wood. The walls of these are sculptured and painted. They are very fond of scenic plays, they take pleasure in blow-

<sup>1</sup> J. A. 1894, 65ff.

ing trumpets and beating drums. They understand fairly well calculation of destiny and researches in physical philosophy. They are equally clever in the art of the Calendar-maker. They adore five celestial spirits, and sculpture their images in stone. Each day they wash them with purifying water. They roast a lamb and offer it in sacrifice.”

### *The King*

“Their king, *Nalingtido* (Narendradeva) adorns himself with true pearls, rock crystal, mother-of-pearl, coral, and amber; he has in the ears rings of gold and pendants of jade, and a breloc belt ornamented with the figure of the Buddha. He seats himself on a seat of lions.<sup>1</sup> In the middle of the hall one spreads flowers and perfumes. The nobles and the officers and all the court are seated to the right and to the left on the ground; at his sides are ranged hundreds of soldiers having arms.”

### *Kailāsakūṭa Palace in 643-657 A.D.*

“In the middle of the palace there is a tower of seven storeys roofed with copper tiles. Its balustrade, grilles, columns, beams, and every thing therein are set with fine and even precious stones. At each of the four corners of the tower there projects a waterpipe of copper. At the base there are golden dragons which spout forth water. From the summit of the tower water is poured through runnels which finds its way down below, streaming like a fountain from the mouth of the golden Makara.”

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Thankot inscr.—*simbāsanādbyāsi-kulaketu.*

The *Varmśāvalīs* throughout mention the construction of palaces of nine storeys and seven storeys and of copper-roofing temples. The art of Nepal excited the admiration of the Chinese, themselves highly artistic.

*Architecture and Temples of Nepal in 657 A. D.*

The following passages from Chinese History (translated from French by Dr. Banerji-Sastri) prove that in the year 657 A.D. when the Ambassador Wang Hiuen-tse passed through Nepal once more (in the reign of Narendradeva whom he had known since 643 A.D.) his companions saw a petroleum spring in the neighbourhood of Kathmandu, which might be rediscovered with profit.

The architectural style which is now known as the pagoda style was already in vogue in Nepal in the middle of the seventh century. The Chinese saw there then such temples and secular buildings, the like of which they had not seen or known in their own country. The style travelled from Nepal to China, and not *vice versa*. The style was not known in China before, while every house in Nepal in its essentials is composed in that style. It was a Nepalese invention, and such is also the opinion of Mr. Landon (ii. 257-58) who can speak on the subject with authority as he studied the question in China also. Throughout Tibet and Mongolia the style is unknown. This shows that in China it was an importation, at first as a Buddhist religious architecture from Nepal.

The passage bearing on the palace of Narendra-

deva which was no other than the *Kailāsakūta*, of which Amśavarman was greatly proud (inscription of the year 34), is cited above. The Varmśāvalīs too note the great Palace and Secretariate built by Amśavarman (Wright, p. 133).

### *Wang Hiuen-ts'e on Nepal*

I.—“The *Si-kouo-hing-tchoan* of Wang Hiuen-ts'e says: In the second year of Hien-king (657) an imperial order sent Wang Hiuen-ts'e and some others into the kingdoms of the West to offer to the Buddha a Kaśāya. They went to *Ni-po-lo* (*Nepāla*) towards the South-West. Arrived at *Pono-lo-tou*, they came to the east of the village at the bottom of a depression. There was there a small lake of water on fire. If one takes in hand some lighted fire to illuminate it, suddenly on its surface appears a luminous fire which emerges from the very bosom of the water. If one wishes to extinguish it by drenching it with the water, the water changes into fire and burns. The Chinese envoy and his followers placed thereon a cooking vessel and thus prepared their nourishment by heating. The envoy interrogated the king of the country; the king replied to him : Yore, in striking strokes with a staff, one made to appear a chest of gold; order was given to a man to drag it out. But each time that one pulled it out, it replunged. Tradition says that it is the gold of the diadem of *Mi-le P'ou-sa* (*Maitreya Bodhisattva*), who is due to come to complete the path. The Nāga of fire protects it and defends it; the fire of this lake

is the fire of the Nāga of Fire.”<sup>1</sup>

II.—“To the South-East of the capital, at a small distance, there is a lake of water and of fire. In going one li towards the East, one finds the fountain *A-ki-po-li*<sup>2</sup> (the *Fa-youen-tchou-lin* bears : *A-ki-po-mi*; the same alternations in the two redactions of the *History of the T'angs*). Its circumference is of 20 pou (40 paces). In the dry time as in the season of the rains, it is deep; it does not dissipate but keeps on steaming always. If one holds in hand some lighted fire, the entire tank takes fire; the smokes and the fire rise several feet high. If one drenches this fire with some water, then the fire becomes more intense. If one launches therein powdered dust, the flame ceases and what one throws therein turns to ash. If one places a cooking vessel over the water to prepare the food by heating, it is well-heated. There was in olden time in this fountain a coffer of gold. A king ordered to drag this coffer out. When one had brought it out of the mud, the men and elephants pulled at it without succeeding in making it come out. And in the night a supernatural voice says : Here is the diadem of Maitreya Buddha; creatures could not assuredly obtain it, because the Nāga of Fire guards it.”

“To the South of the town, at more than 10 li, is found an isolated mountain covered with an extraordinary vegetation; Temples are disposed there in numerous storeys which one would take for a crown

<sup>1</sup> *Missions of Wang*—Fragment IV, drawn from *Fa-youen-tchou-lin*, chap. xvi, p. 15b, col. 17.

<sup>2</sup> *Agni-puri*, or *agni-pushkari*—K. P. J.

of clouds. Under the pines and the bamboos, the fishes and the dragons follow man, tame and confiding. They approach the man and come to receive what to eat. Who does them violence causes the ruin of those his own."

"Recently the orders of the Empire passed by this kingdom and thence extended far. Now it depends on *T'eu-fan* (Tibet)."<sup>1</sup>

III.—"In the capital of Nepal there is a construction in storeys which has more than 200 tch'eu of height and 80 peu (400 feet) of circumference. Ten thousand men can find place in its upper part. It is divided in three terraces<sup>2</sup> and each terrace is divided in seven storeys. In the four pavilions, there are sculptures to make you marvel. Stones and pearls decorate them."<sup>3</sup>

### *Epigraphy of Nepal of the 7th and 8th centuries*

Epigraphy of Nepal is a peculiar matter—it is puzzling, especially when one first takes to it. Writing in Nepal is very stationary, the result being that epigraphs of the seventh century appear to be older by several centuries, judged from the standard of the plains. This led Professor Lévi to assign records dated in Gupta Era to Saka Era and a supposed Lichchhavi Era. The best authority on Nepal paleography is Dr. Bendall who made a very deep study of manuscript paleography of Nepal and with that knowledge he had no hesitation in

<sup>1</sup> Fragments II and III.

<sup>2</sup> "Court-yards" in the *Varnśāvalis* (Wright, 133).

<sup>3</sup> *Cheu-kia-fang-tchi*. Cf. *Le Nepal*, per S. Lévi, vol. I, pp.

assigning correct dates to Nepal lithic inscriptions. He found Gupta characters of the fourth and fifth centuries which were distinct from the Arīśuvarman group (*Journey*, p. 5). Outside the Kathmandu group of towns no search has been made at sites of the old seats of governments. The Kailāsakūṭa mound is yet to be excavated.

In the meantime I may emphasize the archaic nature of Nepal epigraphy by citing one example. There is a copy of the law Digest *Kalpataru* of Lakshmidhara, which was written in the time of the author—12th century. I was anxious to see it, but as the owner General Kaisar Shamsher Jang was away from Nepal I could not see it. My friend the Rājaguru told me that the manuscript which is (on palm leaf) in Nāgarī has notes on the margin of leaves in Gupta characters. Similarly the Rañjana script still current in Nepal is only a variety of Gupta letters. It is so common that ordinary engravers made seals for me in this script.

As Gupta writing persisted in Nepal, so did Guptan and post-Guptan style in sculpture in Nepal. At every step I was deceived by sculptures, a few centuries old, giving an impression of the 9th century and 8th century technique.

### *Origin of Dual Sovereignty in Nepal*

Dual Sovereignty is a bad working hypothesis to the modern political theorist. But it is fully attested and authenticated by the history of Nepal—not only of the period reviewed above but also of the subsequent periods—fully borne out by colophons

of manuscripts noted by Bendall (*Nepal Catalogue*, i, Introduction), by inscriptions [e.g., Bendall's *Journey*, p. 15] and notices in the *Varmśavalīs* of "joint rule"—down to our own time. It is in the very soil of Nepal and works well, wonderfully well. Its origin lies in the dual constitution of the Lichchhavis—of the *Rājā* and *Upa-Rājā*—which they carried from Vaiśāli into Nepal. Even in their Monarchical days they could not shake it off. The curious sight of two sovereigns in the new *Svayamabhū nāth* inscription<sup>1</sup> and in the Early Thākuri history puzzled me until the Lichchhavi constitution of the republican Vaiśāli was recalled. This *Dvairājya* system which was fully known to Ancient Hindus and which the Jaina sūtras ask their monks to avoid, is suitable for a constitutional oasis like Nepal. It, at the same time, put a limit to her power of expansion.

Nepal in the past, as to this day, has been mainly oligarchical and never purely monarchical. Therein lies both her strength and weakness.

## XI—THAKURIS AFTER JAYADEVA II

The list of the *Varmśavalīs*<sup>2</sup> for the period 880 A.D. to the present dynasty has been confirmed<sup>3</sup> by the researches of Dr. Bendall based purely on dated

<sup>1</sup> JBORS, XXII. 81.

<sup>2</sup> Bendall's *Varmśavalī*, *Nepal Cat.* i, p. 21; Bhagwanlal Indraji's ed., I.A., IX. 413, other *Varmśavalīs* in Lévi's *Nepal*, ii. 131-132; Kirkpatrick, 261-262.

<sup>3</sup> Only the Third Thākuri Dynasty—I.A., IX, 414—6 names—Jayachandra Malla to Aśoka Malla coming before Jayasthitī Malla (1380-1354 A.D.), never ruled and are to be excluded. They must have been subordinate rulers.

manuscripts of Nepal (*Cat.*, p. 21ff). It is therefore not necessary for me to deal with the list after Rāghavadeva (880 A.D.). The names from Rāghavadeva to the end of the dynasty in the *Varnśāvalī* cited by Bendall (14th century) are:

|                    |                                                                            |                    |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rāghavadeva        | 880 A.D.                                                                   | (46 yrs. 6 months) |
| Jayadeva (III)     |                                                                            | (10 yrs.)          |
| Vikramadeva        | (8 yrs. 9 months)                                                          |                    |
| Narendradeva (III) |                                                                            | (1 yr. 6 months)   |
| Guṇakāmadeva (II)  |                                                                            | (65 yrs. 5 months) |
| Udayadeva II       | (1018 <sup>1</sup> A.D., according to the total of the above reign-period; | (5 yrs. 5 months)  |

Nirbhaya (MS., 1008; A.D.) (K., 7 yrs.)

|                   |                       |                                                  |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Joint rule</i> | Bhojadeva             | (dated MS., 1015 A.D., not in Bendall's V. list) |
|                   | [Rudra not in any V.] |                                                  |
|                   | Lakshmīkāmadeva       | (1015 A.D.; dated manuscript) (21 yrs.)          |

Jayakāmadeva, 1039 A.D., MS., 'reign over half the kingdom' (20 yrs.) (Bendall's V.; at first joined with the two above).

Against this we have in the other lists :

|                                     |                                           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| [Rāghavadeva, only in K., 63 yrs.]. |                                           |
| 12 Jayadeva (III)                   | (15 yrs.)                                 |
| 13 Balārjunadeva                    | (17 yrs.) [in K. he is above Rāghavadeva] |
| 14 Vikramadeva                      | (12 yrs.)                                 |
| [Narendradeva, only in K., 1½ yrs.] |                                           |
| 15 Guṇakāmadeva (II)                | (51 yrs.)                                 |

<sup>1</sup> There must be a mistake of at least 10 yrs. because the next king's date is 1008 A.D. (Bendall, p. 21).

[Udaya, only in K., 6 yrs.]

[Nirbhaya, only in K., 7 yrs.]

16 Bhojadeva (8 yrs.)

17 Lakshmikāmadeva (22 yrs.)

In the latter list no. 13 Balārjunadeva is extra. But in the list of Kirkpatrick's *Vamśāvalī*, which is in age next to Bendall's and earlier than Wright's and Bhagwanlal's, we have Balārjuna above Rāghavadeva who is omitted by other *Vamśāvalīs*. Hence the correct order seems to be that Balārjunadeva should come before Rāghavadeva<sup>1</sup>, i.e.

[12] Balārjunadeva

Rāghavadeva

[13] Jayadeva III etc.

The succession of the Thākuri line before Rāghavadeva, thus corrected, stands in the following order. [Fortunately at this period we begin to get reliable reign-periods. The *Vamśāvalīs* place these below Amśuvaraman, 42 yrs., K., but they come really below Sivadeva II, as Amśuvaraman is misplaced from below Sivadeva I to below Sivadeva II; and Jayadeva II (son of Sivadeva II) is omitted. Then the order runs thus:]

(2) Kṛitavarman [18 yrs. (K.), 654 A.D.<sup>2</sup>]

(3) Bhīmārjunadeva I [39 yrs. (K.), 672 A.D.]

(4) Nandadeva 'introduced the Era of Śālivāhana in Nepal' [13 yrs. (K.), 711 A.D.]

<sup>1</sup> In K. the names Balārjuna and Jayadeva have been repeated three times—evidently the composer who was consulting three authorities copied three orders. All this confusion is cleared up by Bendall's authority.

<sup>2</sup> Dates are calculated back from 880 A.D. for Rāghavadeva (see above).

(5) Sivadeva II (K.) 16 yrs., 724 A.D.  
 [Viradeva—other recensions]

(6) Chandraketudeva, [omitted by K., did not complete even a year according to others] 740 A.D.

(7) Narendradeva [instituted Tibetan Buddhist worship, and several foundations] 37 yrs.  
 (K.), 7 yrs. (W.) 740—777 A.D.

(8) Varadeva, 17 yrs. (K.), 23 yrs. (L.) 8 yrs. (W.)  
 777-784 A.D.

(9) Samkaradeva 12 yrs. (all authorities)  
 784-796 A.D.

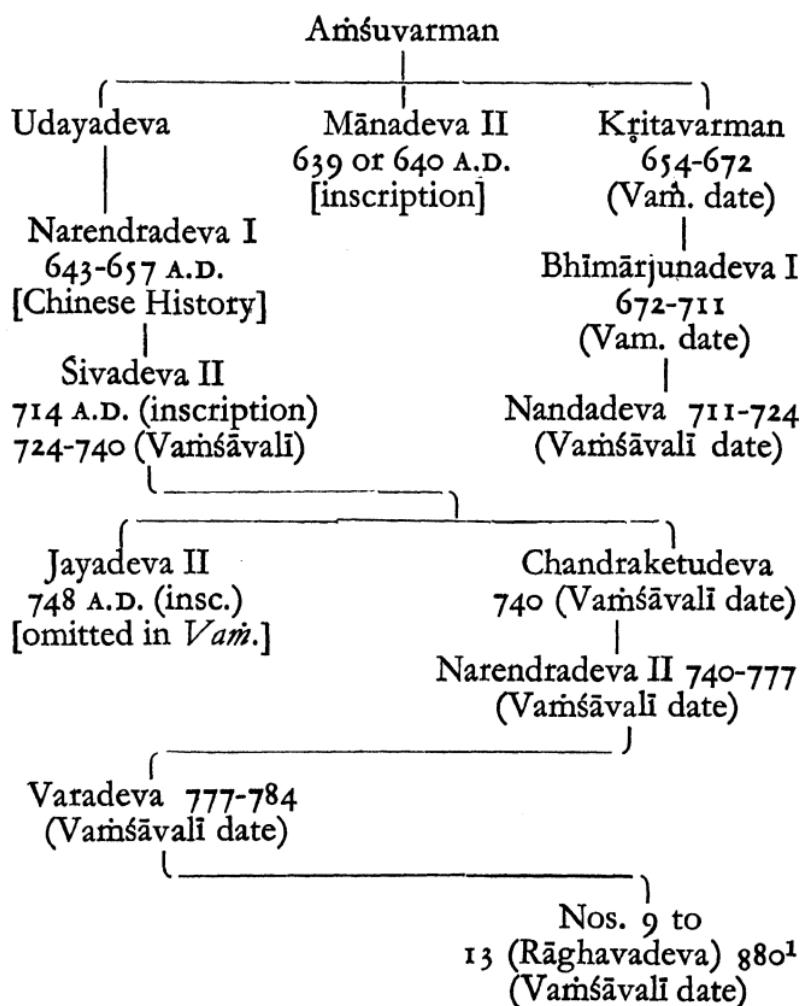
(10) Vardhamānadeva 13 yrs., 16 yrs., (K.)  
 (Bhimārjunadeva (K.) 812 A.D.

(11) Balideva 13 yrs., 16 yrs. (K.)  
 828 A.D.

(12) Balārjunadeva 36 yrs., (36 yrs., 7ms. (K.),  
 other 17 yrs.) 844 A.D.  
 Rāghavadeva 46 yrs. (Bendall)  
 880-926 A.D.

It seems that Kitavarmān and Bhimārjunadeva I did not reign; no reign period is given to them by Wright's *Varnśāvalī*, nor is any event ascribed to them. They are mere names. They might have been feudatories, or only ancestors introduced here to give a complete genealogy from Arīśuvarman. Their reign-periods given in Bhagwanlal's and Lévi's *Varnśāvalis*—87 and 93 years—attempt to bridge the time roughly between Arīśuvarman and Sivadeva II. The alternative years for them in Kirkpatrick's *Varnśāvalī* (18 and 39) will make their branch begin about c 654 A.D.

The line should be counted from No. 5 Sivadeva II, the three names before are probably of feudatories. The descent seems to have been thus :



The omission of Jayadeva II by the Vamśāvalis in both lists—Lichchhavi and Thākuri—is significant. After Sivadeva II the main authority seems to have passed to Chandraketudeva whose

<sup>1</sup> Kirkpatrick, p. 202.

succession is noted to have been disputed, evidently, by Jayadeva II who is not given the full title of sovereignty in his inscription. Probably Chāndrakētudēva was the elder, and Jayadeva II a usurper. Sivadēva II is given both in the Lichchhavi line (no. 27) after Udayadeva and Mānadeva (with the misplaced Guṇakāmadeva) and in the Thākuri line. This confusion resulted in the Chroniclers because they had read the inscription of Jayadeva II, and on account of the claim of the descendants of Amśavarman to be the true Lichchhavi heirs<sup>1</sup>. But the chronology adopted by the Vamśāvalis<sup>2</sup> is correct and agrees with the inscriptional dates and dates from Chinese History. The Thākuri list further proves by the repetition of Sivadēva II that the line of Udayadeva really descended from Amśavarman.

*Defeat of Jayāpiṭa Vinayāditya (782—813 A.D.)  
of Kashmir by Nepal*

Jayāpiṭa, the Karkotaka king of Kāshmir, whose history is related at length by Kalhana in his History of Kāshmir, c. iv, verses 402-659, came to throne 48½ years after the accession of Muktagāpiṭa Lalitāditya who had been invested by the Emperor of China in 733 A.D. He therefore became king in or about 782 A.D. and ruled for

<sup>1</sup> One Vamśāvalī cited in Mr. Landon's book *Nepal*, ii, 315 (Baḍā Kaji's Vamśāvalī) says that Amśavarman had been adopted as son by Sivadēva I.

<sup>2</sup> That is, the chronology based on the date 880 A.D. for the beginning of the reign of Rāghavadeva, founder of the Nepal Era.

31 years, up to 813 A.D. He is related to have minted an unprecedented quantity of copper dinnāras (verse 617) which is attested by "multitudes" of his coins surviving today.<sup>1</sup> Jayapida distinguished himself both as king and scholar. He had great daring and desired to be Emperor of India. His exploits extended from the plains of Hindustan to Nepal. He was utterly defeated by the able tactics, peculiarly Nepalese, of the king of Nepal, and was taken prisoner. He was confined in a high stone-tower over the Kāla Gaṇḍikā (modern Kāli Gaṇḍak) until rescued by his faithful minister Devaśarman who persuaded the Nepal king to promise to release him for a ransom, and obtained an interview with his master on that pretext. This episode has been unnecessarily disbelieved by V. Smith (p. 387). The very details and circumstantial and internal evidence furnished by Kalhaṇa affirm the truth of the account. It should be remembered that it was recent history in the time of Kalhaṇa who wrote his History in 1148-1150 A.D. The account runs as follows :

Jayapida started on a *dig-vijaya* with a large cavalry and reached Prayāga (413-417). After establishing his influence by his marriage at Pundravardhana where he went secretly, he defeated the king of Kānyakubja with the help of Bengal and carried away his imperial Lion (*simhāsana*) Throne (471) and returned to Kashmit after three years, where he was welcomed by his people, who were keen to suppress his traitorous minister Jajja. He made Udbhaṭa, a man of letters, President of his Council, and the famous Dāmodaragupta, author of the *Kuṭṭanī-mata*, his chief minister. He put up buildings, made reforms,

<sup>1</sup> V. Smith, EH, 387.

blished a 'Moving Bank' to follow his army, and assumed the name *Vinayāditya* (517).

He went as a spy into the eastern kingdom of Bhīmasena, evidently on his border, and was taken prisoner, from which condition he escaped simulating a contagious disease. On his release he invaded the neighbouring kingdom of Nepal, which was under King Aramudi.

King Aramudi, endowed with the art of war and valour, a skilled tactician, planned Jayāpiḍa's defeat (verse 531). He allowed Jayāpiḍa to enter the kingdom and retreated to 'a great distance' with his army, occasionally making himself visible to the pursuing Jayāpiḍa (533-34) who all the time imagined on account of his success in small encounters during the pursuit that he was having a victorious march. J. planted himself on the bank of a river near a large lake, to the east, when on the second or the third day he found to his 'indignation' the enemy facing him with his colours on the other side of the river. The enraged Jayāpiḍa ordered his army to cross the river which was only knee-deep. [The Nepalese knew their terrain and knew the use of their rivers]. The Kashmir army and their king were swept down by the current which suddenly rose and became irresistible. Cries arose from the bed of the river of distress and that of joy from the opposite bank. Aramudi promptly had Jayāpiḍa caught at a great distance down the river by the alert Nepalese soldiers with the aid of skins and brought before him with his fine clothes and ornaments of royalty having been deprived by the river. The occasion was celebrated by the Nepalese. He was assigned to a tall tower of stone on the river *Kāla Gāndikā* [the river now called Kālī Gāndak in western Nepal] where he was very closely guarded by the trusted men of the 'wise king' of Nepal (546-548). Kalhaṇa notes that ślokas composed by the king Jayāpiḍa in that confinement, looking down upon the free river, were recited by learned men with pathos even in his own days (550).

Then follows the proposal to king Aramudi by the

Kashmir minister to release Jayāpiḍa on receiving a ransom and on condition to make Kashmir a dependency of Nepal. Devasarmān received permission to meet his master Jayāpiḍa, and affected his escape by ultimately committing suicide and thereby offering his body as a float.

This latter detail may be an exaggeration of an accident in the attempt of the minister to swim across the river with his master. But the rest of the account is a matter of fact narration recorded by Kashmir at the cost of her own reputation—a statement against her own interest.

Prof. Lévi not recognising the name in the Varmśāvalīs, declared with his Tibetan bias, the king called Aramudi to be a Tibetan. But Kāshmīris knew the Tibetans too well to make a mistake like that. *Kāla Gaṇḍikā*, still called *Kālī Gaṇḍak* and the western portion of Nepal where the scene is located offer verification of the story.

In the Nepal Varmśāvalīs we have four steps above Rāghavadeva, founder of the Nepal Era of 880 A.D. (Bendall, *Nepal Catalogue*, p. 21; I.A, IX, 413) *Vara-deva*<sup>1</sup>. *Vara-deva* or 'King *Vara*', (771-784 A.D.)<sup>2</sup> suits the chronology to be a contemporary of Jayāpiḍa (782-813 A.D.). *Vara* seems to have changed into *Ara*. Varadeva ruled a second

<sup>1</sup>Varadeva  
Śaṅkaradeva  
Vardhamānadeva  
Balideva  
[Rāghavadeva]  
Jayadeva

The chronology from Rāghavadeva downwards is fully detailed and made certain by Dr. Bendall.

<sup>2</sup> See above the preceding part of this section.

time, having entered a monastery as a Buddhist monk (Wright, 142).<sup>1</sup> Or, *Ara* [in Kāshmīrī meaning hair (Grierson, *Dictionary*, p. 41)] and *mudi* (*mundita*) might denote 'monk' king.

There seems to be in the *Varnśāvalīs*, which are a record of superstitious Buddhist priests interested in glorification of Tāntrika gods and goddesses and their idols, the historical account as degenerated into a fantastic story. *Karkoṭa* is the name of the dynasty to which *Jayapida* belonged. It is also the name of a famous Nāga worshipped in Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The *Varnśāvalīs* note that *Gorakh-nath*, the saint, arrived in Nepal in the reign of *Varadeva* and arrested *Karkoṭa Nāga* and imprisoned him in a hillock (Wright, pp. 140, 143). This caused a great mischief resulting in a draught. Then king *Varadeva* sought the help of Āchārya *Bandhudatta* who rescued and released *Karkoṭa* and established happiness in the valley. *Bandhudatta* had the pleasure of crossing rivers on the body of *Karkoṭa* all the same.

Fortunately the History of Kashmir has preserved this account which illustrates the successful traditional tactics of Nepal. Throughout the historian of Kashmir has used words of high respect for the Nepal king who defeated the idol of Kāshmir history—a most courageous figure, a most able king, an accomplished scholar, their greatest patron of men of letters and of letters—although his last days were marked with disregard for temple property which he largely

<sup>1</sup> This will fall after 784 A. D.

resumed, and contempt for the Brahmin caste, yet he remained a figure of whom Kashmir has been proud.

There is no reason to transfer from Nepal this chapter of glory to Tibet or to the domain of romance, as done by Lévi and Smith.

## XII—PALA'S CONNEXION WITH NEPAL AND NEPAL'S LATER COINAGE

In the last quarter of the eighth century, that is, in the period after Jayadeva II, the Pāla Paramountcy begins in India, which remained on the increase in the reign of Dharmapāla (*c.* 800) and Devapāla (*c.* 850 A.D.) whose paramountcy did reach the Himalayan hill states (Kīra) and their borders (Assam). The Pāla emperors came in conflict with a Himalayan people called the Kāmbojas who broke the Pāla power for a time and who actually set themselves up at Dinajpur, where one of the routes from Nepal leads down to. This eclipse of the Pālas falls to be in the epoch when Nepal starts her own era in 880 A.D. Under Mahipāla I the Pāla empire recovered (about 978 or 980).<sup>1</sup> During his reign Buddhism in Tibet was revived by new missions from Bihar, and we take it that Nepal was not ignored. Nayā Pāla, his successor, who defeated Karṇa Kalachuri was succeeded by a wicked and weak son, Mahipāla II, who was succeeded by the powerful Rāma Pāla (1084-1130). His rule covered Mithilā and Assam (V. Smith, E.H., 416). We have positive evidence, which had been

<sup>1</sup> V. Smith, E. H., pp. 414-415.

missed so far, that Rāma Pāla was the suzerain of Nepal also.

A palm-leaf manuscript—*Kubjikāmatam* which is a part of the Tāntrika Buddhist work *Kulālikāmnāya* is in the Nepal State Library (H. P. Sastri, Catalogue, p. 54) which is in Newārī characters. It notes in the colophon that the manuscript was copied under the reign of the Buddhist Emperor Rāmapāladeva:

Parameśvara-Parama-bhaṭṭāraka  
parama-Saugata-Mahārājādhīrāja  
Śrīmad-Rāmapāladevasya  
pravardha—(i.e. pravardhamāna-vijaya-rājye).

The portion in front of *parameśvara* is read as *Rāmapāladevasya* which if it refers to the Nepal king has to be read as *Vāmadevasya* whose time as ascertained from manuscripts of his reign and his predecessor and successor is between 1077 and 1090 A. D. (Bendall, Nepal Catalogue, *Intro.* p. 22).

We have thus positive proof of the fact that at least in the time of Rāma Pāla Nepal was under Pāla suzerainty. It is very likely that under Dharmapāla and Devapāla a similar state obtained.

We do not find Nepal striking her own coins from about 800 A. D. onwards. This is probably explained by the fact of the Pāla domination, which was immediately followed by the Kārnāṭaka domination beginning with Nānyādeva. At the close of the Kārnāṭaka period we find Nepal imitating the coin of Alauddin Khilji.<sup>1</sup> Then follows a troubled period until stability is restored under

<sup>1</sup> See separate article on the Unrecorded Muhammadan Invasion of Nepal in JBORS., XXII. 81.

Jayasithimalla<sup>1</sup> (1380-1394). Nepal acknowledged nominal suzerainty of Delhi as noted by Travernier.<sup>2</sup> And naturally we do not find a Nepal coinage until permission for establishing a mint was obtained from the early Moghuls.

Nepal thus from 800 A. D. or at any rate from 1080 A. D. remained as part of the Indian Empire up to Moghul days in international theory, which found a tangible expression in the history of her coinage—the absence of coinage. The same is to be predicated of her in the Imperial Gupta times as well.

## B

### EARLY DYNASTIES OF NEPAL

XIII—"NIMISHA DYNASTY" [205 A.D. TO 350 A.D.]

AND KIRATA DYNASTY [590 B.C. TO 110 A.D.]

The Vāṁśāvalīs<sup>3</sup> other than Kirkpatrick's give five names at the close of the native Kirāta Dynasty and before the Sūryavamśa, i.e., the Lichchhavi Dynasty of Nepal—*Nimisha* (*Nevesit*—K.)—*Manāksha* (or *Matāksha*), *Kāka-varman*, *Paśuprekshadeva* (founder of the Paśupati Temple who introduced Aryan population from Hindustan) and *Bhāskaravarman* (who conquered the whole of India, and being childless adopted *Bhūmivarman*). They call this

<sup>1</sup> There was a Khasiyā invasion (1328 A. D.—Bendall, p. 10) and to that period must belong the curious clay coins of *Mathis* *singha* *Khasiyā*. The legend, in Nāgarī, is on the milled edge.

<sup>2</sup> II. ch. XV.

<sup>3</sup> Bhagwanlal Indraji's recension summarised in I. A., XIII. 411 at 412; Wright's copy in his *History of Nepal*, 112; Lévi's copy summarised in his *Nepal*, ii. 83.

*Somavamīśī* dynasty. With *Bhūmivarman* whose grandson was *Jayadeva I* (mentioned in the inscription of *Jayadeva II*) the later *Varmāvalis* begin a new dynasty (the *Sūryavamīśa*). But Kirkpatrick's authority while mentioning this adoption, does not begin a new dynasty and treats the two groups as forming one dynasty '*Nevesit*'. It begins the dynasty with *Nevesit*. This *Nevesit* is really *Nevesi* corresponding with *Nimisha* of the later works, which have really turned *\*Nivisi* into *Nimisha*. '*Nivisi*' represented *\*Nichivi* (*\*Nisivi*) = *Nichchhivi* (Manu) = *Lichchhavi*. There was no distinct dynasty of a *Somavamīśa* of the five rulers in the original authorities.

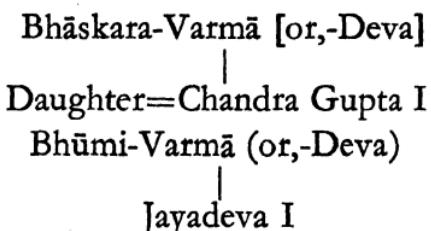
The seven rulers before *Jayadeva I* were rulers obviously in the plains, that is, at *Vaiśālī*. They annexed Nepal about 200 A. D. and established a direct government there, marking the event with the installation of *Pāśupati*—which is a Mukhalinga of the style of the *Nāga-Vākāṭakas*, i.e., of the period.<sup>1</sup> '*Nimisha*' being only the dynastic name the first ruler of Nepal would be *Mānāksha* or *Matāksha*, and the effective founder, *Pāśuprekha* the third king, who is credited with the introduction of Hindu caste-rules and population (of four varṇas) from Hindustan, and as being the founder of *Pāśupati*'s Temple.

His successor *Bhāskaravarman*, the great conqueror of India, is probably the grandfather of *Sāmuḍra Gupta*, and father-in-law of *Chandragupta I*. He was still probably the President

<sup>1</sup> See my *History of India*, 150-350 A. D., the plates and description of the *Nachnā* and other images.

of the Republic at Vaiśālī, for the coins of Chandra Gupta I are struck by the "Lichchhavis." He seems to have defeated Magadha and evidently his dominions were large enough to entitle Chandra Gupta I to call himself *Mahārājādhirāja*. The seat of government changed from Vaiśālī to Nepal where his adopted son Bhūmivarman succeeded and the plains passed on to Chandra Gupta I and his Queen, the Lichchhavi lady. In Nepal Jayadeva I turned the state into a monarchy or a double kingship.

The succession seems to have stood thus :



We may roughly date the Early Lichchhavis :

|                     |                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| c. 205 A. D.        | Mānāksha                                                   |
| c. 230 A.D.         | Kāka-varman                                                |
| c. 255 A. D.        | Paśuprekshadeva                                            |
| c. 280-305 A. D.    | Bhāskaravarman                                             |
| c. 305 A. D.        | Bhūmivarman                                                |
| c. 330 A. D.        | Chandravarman [Is he<br>the same as Chandra-<br>Gupta II?] |
| c. 340 or 350 A. D. | Jayadeva I <sup>1</sup>                                    |

The Lichchhavi monarchy in Nepal probably retained its original character of divided sovereignty,

<sup>1</sup> This date is calculated on the basis of Jayadeva II's inscription : See Fleet, *GI*, I. p. 189; and other data in the section on Lichchhavi list, *supra*.

otherwise the position of Amśuvarman's dictatorship and Sivadeva's sovereignty is not explicable. Probably even before Amśuvarman some similar arrangement obtained.

Nimisha is said to have displaced the Kirāta Dynasty in Nepal—(205 A.D.).

The original Kirāta Dynasty which is the first dynasty of Nepal had 28 kings.<sup>1</sup> It was under the 15th Kirāta—Sthunko—that Aśoka visited Nepal. According to the Nepal Chronicles the autonomy of Nepal was maintained by Aśoka under the Kirāta dynasty. This may or may not be correct, as Aśoka's son-in-law Devapāla and his daughter became permanent residents there. After Aśoka and Daśaratha the original dynasty would have revived in Nepal Proper. In the Western part of Nepal in Śunga times we find silver coins of Śunga princes (Sumitra)<sup>2</sup>, Imperial and local (Sivapālita). It is possible that early Śungas might have exercised suzerainty over Nepal. But the continuous line of the Kirāta House entitles us to assume a continuous autonomy. The succession of 15 kings from the time of Aśoka and Sthunko would bring the dynasty to about 110 A.D. [see below].

We have thus a gap between the Kirāta and the Lichchhavi epochs—110 A.D. and 205 A.D.

<sup>1</sup> The Gupta and Ahir dynasties introduced before the Kirātas (600 B.C.-110 A.D.) who are treated again with the kings of the Sixth and Seventh centuries A.D. are really misplaced here; it simply signifies that Hindu history in Nepal begins with the Gupta Period.

<sup>2</sup> Almora coins of alloyed silver; JBORS, XX. 301.

—which is not filled up by the written history of Nepal.

Here coins come to our help. Mr. E. H. Walsh has recorded (JRAS., 1908, p. 677) that a hoard of Kushan coins was dug up in the neighbourhood of Kāthmāndu. They were coins of Wemā Kadphises and of Kanishka. It seems that the Kushan rule might fill this gap of hundred years. Though evidence is not yet conclusive.

The beginning of the Kirāta dynasty (13 generations before Aśoka) is to be dated about 600 B.C.

### *The Kirāta Kings*

Omitting *Yalamva* and *Pavi* [omitted in K.], as belonging to the Second Kirāta dynasty of the sixth century (§ VII), the approximate dates of the kings of the First Kirāta Dynasty will be as calculated below on the basis of the date of Sthunko, contemporary of Aśoka :

|                                     |    |    |    |             |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------------|
| 2. Dhaskam                          | .. | .. | .. | c. 590 B.C. |
| 3. Valamva                          | .. | .. | .. | c. 565 B.C. |
| 4. Hṛiti                            | .. | .. | .. | c. 540 B.C. |
| 5. Humati                           | .. | .. | .. | c. 515 B.C. |
| 6. [Tuskhah] K.                     | .. | .. | .. | c. 490 B.C. |
| 7. Jitedāsti [Sroopast-K.]          | .. | .. | .. | c. 465 B.C. |
| 8. [Galirñja]                       | .. | .. | .. | c. 440 B.C. |
| 9. P (T)ushka Pañcham (K.)          | .. | .. | .. | c. 415 B.C. |
| 10. Suyarma [King-king-king (K.)]   | .. | .. | .. | c. 390 B.C. |
| 11. Parba [Soonand-K.]              | .. | .. | .. | c. 365 B.C. |
| 12. Thuñka [Thoomoo-K.]             | .. | .. | .. | c. 340 B.C. |
| 13. Kemke                           | .. | .. | .. | c. 315 B.C. |
| 14. Svananda [Jaighree-K.]          | .. | .. | .. | c. 290 B.C. |
| 15. Sthunko [contemporary of Aśoka] | .. | .. | .. | c. 265 B.C. |
| 16. Gighri [Suenkeh-K.]             | .. | .. | .. | c. 240 B.C. |

|     |                      |    |    |             |
|-----|----------------------|----|----|-------------|
| 17. | Nane [Thoor-K.]      | .. | .. | C. 215 B.C. |
| 18. | Luk [Thamoo-K.]      | .. | .. | C. 190 B.C. |
| 19. | Thor [Barmah-K.]     | .. | .. | C. 165 B.C. |
| 20. | Thoko [Ganjeh-K.]    | .. | .. | C. 140 B.C. |
| 21. | Varma [Kashkoon-K.]  | .. | .. | C. 115 B.C. |
| 22. | Guja [Teeshoo-K.]    | .. | .. | C. 90 B.C.  |
| 23. | Pushka [Soogmeea-K.] | .. | .. | C. 65 B.C.  |
| 24. | Kesu [Joosha-K.]     | .. | .. | C. 40 B.C.  |
| 25. | Suga [Gontho-K.]     | .. | .. | C. 15 B.C.  |
| 26. | Sansa [Khembhoom-K.] | .. | .. | C. 10 A.D.  |
| 27. | Gunan [Galijang-K.]  | .. | .. | C. 35 A.D.  |
| 28. | Khimbu               | .. | .. | C. 60 A.D.  |
| 29. | Patuka               | .. | .. | C. 85 A.D.  |
| 30. | Gasti                | .. | .. | C. 110 A.D. |

It may be noted that the popular tradition in Nepal today is that the first dynasty of Nepal was *Kirāti*, second *Newārī*, and lastly *Gorkhā*.

## C A RETROSPECT XIV

The history of Nepal is a part of the history of India and of the Hindu Race. The valley was colonized by the Hindus both consciously and by natural process of expansion. Yet it is the history of a colony, with its distinctive features. Those features may be summarised in this way. The ruling dynasties, though mostly Hindus from the plains of India—the Mauryas, the Lichchhavis, the Kārnātakas, the Gorkhas—have a tendency to establish a system of divided sovereignty which works happily in that happy valley of Paśupati. There is much less cause

for jealousy in that system on the soil of Nepal than anywhere else. Joint rules and regencies are a familiar problem in the Lichchhavi times, in the Thākuri times, in the Malla times and in the Gurkha times—two kings occupying the same town or contiguous towns afford a picture of a Mitāksharā family agreeing upon, as we say in Hindu law, a ‘division for the convenience of enjoyment’ rather than upon an actual division by metes and bounds. This divided sovereignty would baffle theorists of political science but has been a familiar, good working system in Nepal.

There is always a sort of internal weakness, but to the outside world Nepal has always shown strength. Throughout her history there has been no case of traitorous betrayal. Internally weak, but externally strong is again a political problem which is explainable by its republican origin noticed above. Nepal's whole history bears out the rule that the little kingdom can defend itself most effectively—it defeated Tibet in her palmiest days when Tibet was the first power in Asia, it defeated Kashmir when Kashmir was the first power in India, it defeated King Shamsuddin, the most brilliant Muslim soldier of the 14th century. Small, and ‘internally weak,’ Nepal is a successful state against the invader. And why? Its republican Lichchhavi origin explains the mystery. Its strong political sense is a Lichchhavi heritage.

Nepal has been in Hindu times mostly a member of the Indian Empire. But for centuries, being situated between two large empires—China and India—Nepal has evolved a wise international policy,

wherein she has hardly ever taken a false step. Owing to that wise policy, her international position today is such as it had probably never been before. She enjoys and rightly the complete confidence of her powerful neighbour.

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